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PREFACE

In conformity with United Nations General Assembly resolutions 1995 (XIX) of 30 December 1964 and 51/167 of 16 December 1996, the tenth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development was held at the Queen Sirikit National Convention Centre in Bangkok, Thailand, from 12 to 19 February 2000.

In its resolution 51/167, the General Assembly welcomed with appreciation the generous offer made by the Government and the people of Thailand to host the tenth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development in the year 2000. In its resolution 53/170 of 15 December 1998, the General Assembly welcomed the launching of the substantive preparatory process for the tenth session of the Conference by the Trade and Development Board at its forty-fifth session. In its resolution 54/198 of 22 December 1999, the General Assembly welcomed the progress made in preparation for the tenth session of the Conference, to be held in Bangkok from 12 to 19 February 2000, by the Trade and Development Board and the host Government and considered that the tenth session of the Conference would provide an important opportunity for the United Nations system and the international community to make a collective reflection on development.

The Trade and Development Board, in the exercise of its functions under General Assembly resolution 1995 (XIX), served as the preparatory committee for the tenth session of the Conference. At its twentieth executive session, on 5 February 1999, the Trade and Development Board approved the annotated substantive agenda item for UNCTAD X. At its forty-sixth session, on 18 October 1999, the Trade and Development Board decided to establish an open-ended Committee of the Whole, under the Chairmanship of the President of the Board, to elaborate the substantive pre-Conference text for transmittal to the Conference and to consider any other relevant matters deemed necessary as part of the preparatory process for the Conference. At its twenty-third executive session, on 27 January 2000, the Trade and Development Board was presented with the pre-Conference text as approved by the Committee of the Whole and requested the President of the Board to transmit the text to the Conference. (The text, entitled "Draft Plan of Action: Pre-Conference text for UNCTAD X", was submitted to the Conference in document TD/L.361.)

As part of the intergovernmental preparations for the tenth session of the Conference, three regional meetings were held at the Ministerial level, namely: the Ninth Ministerial Meeting of the Latin American and Caribbean Group (Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, 5-6 August 1999), which *inter alia* adopted the Santo Domingo Declaration (LA/MM/77/(IX)/1); the Ninth Ministerial Meeting of the Asian Group (Beirut, Lebanon, 11-12 August 1999), which *inter alia* adopted the Lebanon Declaration 1999 (AS/MM/77/(IX)/3); and the Meeting of African Ministers of Trade (Marrakech, Morocco, 14 September 1999), which *inter alia* adopted the African Ministerial Declaration on UNCTAD X (AF/MM/77(IX)/1).

The Ninth Ministerial Meeting of the Group of 77 was held in Marrakech, Morocco, from 13 to 16 September 1999. The Ministerial Meeting *inter alia* adopted the Marrakech Declaration (TD/381), the Draft Bangkok Consensus (TD(X)/PC/5) and the Plan of Action (TD(X)/PC/4), which were subsequently submitted to the Conference and to the Preparatory Committee of the Whole of the Trade and Development Board.

Also as part of the preparations for the Conference, a number of pre-Conference seminars and workshops were held, namely: the Seminar on the Role of Competition Policy for Development in Globalizing World Markets, (14-15 June 1999); the Workshop on Exchange of Experiences among Enterprises in the Area of Electronic Commerce (17-18 June 1999); the Expert Workshop on Trade, Sustainable Development and Gender (12-13 July 1999); and the Seminar on Making FDI Work for Sustainable Development (15 November 1999).

In connection with the substantive work of the tenth session of the Conference, the following documents were submitted to the Conference: "Report of the Secretary-General of UNCTAD to UNCTAD X" (TD/380); "Guidelines for the Participation of the European Union in the tenth session of the Conference" (TD(X)/PC/6).

At the special inaugural ceremony organized by the host country on 12 February 2000, the Conference was addressed by H.E. Mr. Chuan Leekpai, the Prime Minister of Thailand, Mr. Kofi Annan, United Nations Secretary-General, and Mr. Rubens Ricupero, Secretary-General of UNCTAD.

At a special high-level event with Heads of State or Government, on 19 February 2000, participants discussed the main findings of the Conference and how to "make globalization an effective instrument for the development of all countries and all people". The event was chaired by Mr. Chuan Leekpai, Prime Minister of Thailand. Participants included: Mr. Leonel Fernández Reyna, President of the Dominican Republic; Mr. Abdelaziz Bouteflika, President of Algeria; Mr. Ricardo Marquez Flores, Vice-President of Peru; Mr. Jacob Zuma, Deputy President of South Africa; Mr. Pascoal Manuel Mocumbi, Prime Minister of the Republic of Mozambique; Mr. Abderrahman El-Youssoufi, Prime Minister of Morocco; Brigadier Moses Ali, Second Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Tourism, Trade and Industry of Uganda; Mr. Rubens Ricupero, Secretary-General of UNCTAD (Moderator: Ms Raghida Dergham, Senior Diplomatic Correspondent, Al-Hayat newspaper).

In the course of the Conference, the following round tables were organized: High-level Round Table with Eminent Economists on Trade and Development Directions for the 21st century: The academic perspective; High-level Round Table with Heads of United Nations Agencies, Programmes and Related Institutions; Round Table on the Human Dimension of Development: Empowering Entrepreneurs for the 21st Century.

A series of interactive debates took place following keynote addresses by heads of institutions before the plenary sessions on 13-16 February 2000. The keynote speakers were:

Mr. Michel Camdessus, Managing Director, International Monetary Fund; Mr. Enrique Iglesias, President, Inter-American Development Bank; Mr. Juan Somavia, Director-General, International Labour Organization; Mr. Mike Moore, Director-General, World Trade Organization; and Mr. James Wolfensohn, President, World Bank.

An interactive debate with Heads of United Nations regional commissions took place on 14 February. Discussions focused on the regional dimension of development and the impact of globalization on different regions in the wake of the recent financial crisis, as well as their responses to it.

On 13 February 2000, a meeting of the Ministers of Trade of Least Developed Countries was held to exchange views on LDC-related issues and on the preparatory process for the Third United Nations Conference on LDCs.

In the course of the general debate, statements were made by 117 member States and 31 regional groupings, international organizations, specialized agencies, and non-governmental organizations.

The following parallel events were organized in connection with the Conference: NGO Plenary Caucus, designed to assemble civil society delegates representing national, regional and international groups and to provide them with the opportunity to offer their collective views on the issues related to the UNCTAD X agenda (7-8 February 2000); Parliamentary Meeting, organized by the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) and the National Assembly (Parliament) of Thailand in cooperation with the UNCTAD secretariat (9-11 February 2000); the fifth Annual Conference of the World Association of Investment Promotion Agencies (WAIPA), to give officials from member agencies and other professionals in the investment arena an opportunity to exchange information on the latest developments in investment promotion, organized in cooperation with the Board of Investment of Thailand and UNCTAD (9-11 February); South-South Trade Promotion Programme — Buyers/Sellers Meeting on Pharmaceuticals, organized by the International Trade Centre of UNCTAD/WTO (12-13 February 2000); Symposium on Commodities and Development at the turn of the Millennium, organized by the Common Fund for Commodities (CFC) and UNCTAD (13 February 2000); Special Round Table on TNCs, SMEs and Development, Involving Federations, Organizations and Young Entrepreneurs: Building Linkages for Sustainable Development (15 February 2000); UNCTAD/UNDP Global Programme on Globalization, Liberalization and Sustainable Human Development (16 February 2000).

Other events included a one-day Symposium on Economic and Financial Recovery in Asia, on 17 February 2000.

At its 264th (closing) plenary meeting, on 19 February 2000, on the recommendation of Mr. Surin Pitsuwan, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Thailand, the Conference adopted the "Bangkok Declaration: Global Dialogue and Dynamic Engagement", and on the

recommendation of Mr. Philippe Petit (France), Chairman of the Committee of the Whole, the Conference adopted the "Plan of Action". Further to a presentation by Mr. Awni Behnam, Secretary of the Conference, it also adopted an expression of appreciation to His Majesty the King of Thailand and an expression of gratitude to the Government and people of Thailand.

Part I

BANGKOK DECLARATION: GLOBAL DIALOGUE AND DYNAMIC ENGAGEMENT

We, the member States of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, gathered in Bangkok, Thailand, between 12-19 February 2000, for the tenth session of the Conference, agree and declare:

THE SETTING

1. We came to Bangkok to deliberate on developmental strategies in an increasingly interdependent world, and on how to make globalization an effective instrument for development. In the context of the opportunities created by the technological revolution, the opening of markets, and globalization, the paramount objectives of our endeavours have been the promotion of growth and sustainable development, and the quest for equity and participation by all. Our deliberations have reminded us of the enormity and the urgency of the challenge of translating broadly agreed concepts into effective action. We leave Bangkok with the conviction that we will be able to advance in the effort of achieving more effective coordination and cooperation among governments and among international institutions in dealing with global interdependence and development.

2. Globalization is an ongoing process that presents opportunities, as well as risks and challenges. It has expanded the prospect for technological advances and for effective integration into the international economy. It has increased prosperity and the potential for countries to benefit. However, globalization also raises the risk of marginalization of countries, in particular the poorest countries, and the most vulnerable groups everywhere. Income gaps within and among countries remain wide, and the number of people living in poverty has increased. Asymmetries and imbalances in the international economy have intensified. Instability in the international financial system continues to be a serious problem and requires urgent attention.

3. The tenth United Nations Conference on Trade and Development took place in a country and a region that were at the centre of one of the most severe financial and economic crises of recent times, which had an adverse effect on almost all developing countries. Despite their adverse economic and social impact, crises can act as catalysts; they tend to focus the mind and the will of Governments and peoples on decisive action to face the difficulties. This happened, for example, in East and South-East Asia. Within a relatively short period, through various sound national responses, and with the cooperation of the international community, the countries concerned have been able to meet the challenge of resuming growth and are now emerging from

the crisis with a renewed sense of confidence. This demonstrates the power of human spirit when it mobilizes collective efforts to address the challenges of globalization.

4. Formidable challenges remain. Countries affected by the crisis have had to address their structural problems, which have been magnified by social and human suffering and dislocation. They must, with the assistance of the international community, define strategies that will strengthen and sustain growth while allowing for a rapid return to the levels of human and social development seriously undermined by the crisis. They must also transform their institutions into efficient instruments for the implementation of these strategies. The qualities that characterized East and South-East Asia and that are common to all success stories of development remain valid: sound macroeconomic fundamentals, improved governance, high savings rates, investment in human resources, sustainable use of natural resources, strong partnership between the public and private sectors, and export orientation. These characteristics are among the necessary conditions for sustained economic growth and sustainable development. We must take purposeful action to avoid, and mitigate the risks of, future crises. In addition to national efforts, the international community as a whole has the responsibility to ensure an enabling global environment through enhanced cooperation in the fields of trade, investment, competition and finance and to contribute to currency stability so as to make globalization more efficient and equitable.

A New Beginning

5. As the first major intergovernmental economic and development conference of the century, UNCTAD X has provided us with a unique opportunity to take stock of and reflect on recent experiences of globalization, to examine strengths and weaknesses in past approaches and policies, and to identify the major challenges ahead: ensuring the effective integration of all countries into the international trading system; improving supply capabilities; overcoming the debt problem; strengthening the commitment to social development; ensuring women's political, economic and social participation; generating adequate financial flows for development, including addressing the declining trend of Official Development Assistance (ODA) and its effective use; undertaking institutional reforms; reducing financial volatility; and enhancing the technological capabilities of developing countries. It has allowed the international community to focus on the central problems of recent decades, notably acute poverty and growing inequality within and among nations, problems which are threatening international stability. In an increasingly knowledge-intensive world, support for knowledge-based development is necessary for effective participation of developing countries in the world economy.

6. Globalization can be a powerful and dynamic force for growth and development. If it is properly managed, the foundations for enduring and equitable growth at the international level can be laid. For that, it is essential to persevere in the search for consensual solutions through open and direct dialogue that takes account of the fundamental interests of all.

7. The Bangkok Conference has particularly emphasized the need for increased policy coherence at the national and international level. There should be complementarity between macroeconomic and sectoral policies at the national level and between policies at the national and international level. There is also a need for more effective cooperation and coordination among multilateral institutions. National and international institutional frameworks should be strengthened accordingly.

8. Many countries have difficulty in coping with the increased competition and lack the capacity to take advantage of the opportunities brought about by globalization. This requires a decisive effort in favour of those at risk of marginalization. In this regard, Africa, which has as much potential as any other region, should be given special attention. For the international community, just as for each and every national society, the ultimate test lies in the way it treats the weaker members of the community. In this context, the Conference emphasizes the importance of the forthcoming Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, and urges the international community to contribute towards its success.

9. Solidarity and a strong sense of moral responsibility must be the guiding light of national and international policy. They are not only ethical imperatives, but also prerequisites for a prosperous, peaceful and secure world based on true partnership. Such partnership requires more inclusive, transparent and participatory institutional arrangements for international economic decision-making so as to ensure that the benefits of globalization are accessible to all on an equitable basis. In addition, the success of international development efforts depends on account being taken of all stakeholders, including the private sector, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and academia.

10. The Conference emphasizes commitment to a multilateral trading system that is fair, equitable and rules-based and that operates in a non-discriminatory and transparent manner and in a way that provides benefits for all countries, especially developing countries. This will involve, among other things, improving market access for goods and services of particular interest to developing countries, resolving issues relating to the implementation of World Trade Organization (WTO) agreements, fully implementing special and differential treatment, facilitating accession to the WTO, and providing technical assistance. The Conference reiterates that all countries and international organizations should do their utmost to ensure that the multilateral trading system fulfils its potential in terms of promoting the integration of all countries, in particular the least developed countries, into the global economy. A new round of multilateral trade negotiations should take account of the development dimension. Securing early progress on all these issues remains a matter of urgency for the international community. The Conference emphasizes the role and contribution of regional integration in this process.

OPEN DIALOGUE AND FULL ENGAGEMENT

11. As the focal point within the United Nations for the integrated treatment of development and the interrelated issues in the areas of trade, finance, investment, technology, and sustainable

development, UNCTAD must make a substantial contribution to the pursuit of development objectives. It must also play an active role in consensus building around well-defined trade supporting and development issues.

12. One contribution of UNCTAD X and its preparatory process has been the achievement of open dialogue and frank exchanges of views. A large measure of agreement was possible in Bangkok on the shared moral commitment to a better and fairer world. UNCTAD's work can serve to address the challenges and opportunities of globalization and inform an open and systematic debate on diverse development-related issues of global interest among partners in the development process, including the private sector, NGOs, academia and parliamentarians. It should pursue this open dialogue to help shape international economic relations in the twenty-first century.

13. The Conference has brought together development partners to propose practical and meaningful solutions. It has inspired reasons for hope in the possibility of creating a fairer and better world economic system, alleviating poverty, redressing imbalances, and improving the protection of our environment, as well as offering all people security and growing opportunities to raise their standards of living and lead a full and meaningful life. We have agreed on a Plan of Action to guide this process. We must all now work together to turn hope into reality.

Part II

PLAN OF ACTION

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I. DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIES IN AN INCREASINGLY INTERDEPENDENT WORLD: APPLYING THE LESSONS OF THE PAST TO MAKE GLOBALIZATION AN EFFECTIVE INSTRUMENT FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF ALL COUNTRIES AND ALL PEOPLE

A. Evaluation of the developmental impact of globalization

1. Globalization and interdependence have opened new opportunities, through increased trade liberalization and advancement in technology, for the growth of the world economy and development. With the acceleration in the pace of globalization in the early 1990s came the expectation that growth and development based on global market forces would be more rapid, more sustainable and more widely shared than in the past. The record, however, has been mixed. Some countries have successfully adapted to the changes and benefited from globalization, thanks in part to export-led and FDI absorption strategies. Nevertheless, many developing countries, especially the LDCs, have not achieved significant or continuous increase in their GDP per capita over the last three decades. While domestic factors have played a role, it seems clear that the international environment has not always been conducive to their development efforts. The income gap is wide between the developed and the developing countries and often within countries. Although globalization raises serious problems, with a risk of instability and marginalization, experience so far has shown that it offers new perspectives for integrating developing countries in the world economy.

2. A series of financial crises has affected the global economy in the 1990s. What became clear particularly through the Asian crisis was that even developing countries which had achieved rapid growth were still vulnerable and that existing international mechanisms were not fully effective in dealing with the crisis. Moreover, contagion resulting from the crisis had a negative impact on international trade worldwide and economic development in many developing countries and countries in transition. While there are indications that recovery is under way, the social consequences of the crisis are still present.

3. There is a growing awareness that recent development strategies promoted mainly by the multilateral financial institutions have limitations for the development process and should, along with certain domestic policies, adapt to evolving global conditions. In order to help developing countries to prevent and overcome any negative effect of economic and financial globalization, to reap its benefits and to respond to its challenges and opportunities, there is a need for the international community to reconsider and elaborate development strategies and policies, taking into account development's social, human and environmental dimensions.

4. Globalization remains potentially a powerful and dynamic force for growth and development. It can improve the overall performance of developing countries' economies by

opening up market opportunities for their exports, by promoting the transfer of information, skills and technology and by increasing the financial resources available for investment in physical and intangible assets. Maximizing the benefits of globalization requires sound domestic policies supported by an enabling global environment and by international economic cooperation. It also requires that the international community address the imbalances and asymmetries in the international economy. Bilateral and multilateral efforts are also needed to safeguard vulnerable populations, especially during times of economic crisis. Benefits of globalization should be more widely shared among and within countries, as there is no automatic process by which the income levels of developing countries will converge towards those of developed countries.

5. The fast pace of financial liberalization has in some cases significantly delinked finance and investment from international trade and has led to high volatility of capital flows. This has weakened the capacity of some developing countries to manage effectively their integration into the world economy. The effects of the volatility need to be addressed by the international community.

6. While trade liberalization has generated growth, there is still scope for further opening in many areas of export interest to developing countries. The efficient functioning of a non-discriminatory and competitive market would represent an important contribution to development. Labour markets have not been opened to the same extent as capital markets. In order that globalization can contribute to sustained economic growth and sustainable development, intensified international cooperation as well as countries' own national and regional efforts will be essential to address the domestic and external factors of underdevelopment effectively. Taking account of their specific circumstances, liberalization can improve the international competitiveness of developing countries and promote growth.

7. Democracy, rule of law, transparent and accountable governance and administration, including combating and eliminating corruption - a global phenomenon, affecting both developed and developing countries - are indispensable foundations for the realization of people-centred sustainable development. Human rights and fundamental freedoms, with the right to development as an integral part, must be promoted and protected. Macroeconomic stability has proved to be an important element for economic growth and the alleviation of poverty.

8. Policies and programmes need to integrate a gender perspective in order to contribute to the empowerment of women and to achieve equality between women and men in all sectors of the economy. Social policies, especially education, including girls' education, as well as health policy and social safety nets, yield a high return in terms of growth.

9. We reaffirm paragraph 84 of the Midrand document "A Partnership for Growth and Development". Good health and the attainment of basic education are essential building blocks

of development and indispensable for reducing poverty and inequality. Policies must take into account the effects of globalization on basic development requirements.

B. Stocktaking of major international initiatives and developments

(i) Uruguay Round

10. The Uruguay Round of Multilateral Trade Negotiations resulted in improvements in market access, as well as in the security of market access, for both goods and services. In addition, the dispute settlement mechanism of the WTO in principle provides WTO members with effective recourse to defend their market access rights. Furthermore, within the framework of the general liberalization process, several WTO members, including many developing countries, have taken autonomous measures which have made a positive contribution to that liberalization process.

11. However, the Uruguay Round negotiations focused on achieving tariff liberalization but left tariff peaks and escalation in a significant number of products, including those which are of interest for developing countries. Furthermore, the tariffication of quotas and other non-tariff measures in the agricultural sector was reflected in a number of high tariffs, with the access opportunities in many sectors being provided only within tariff quotas. The textile and clothing sector, of vital interest to many developing countries, is subject to declining quantitative restrictions until 2005, with the most meaningful liberalization of existing quotas coming last.

12. The Uruguay Round Agreements relating to sanitary and phytosanitary standards and to technical barriers to trade developed a set of rules intended to impede the use of those standards as obstacles to trade.

13. The improved market access and increased market penetration resulting from the Uruguay Round, as well as other economic factors, have given rise to more intense demands from domestic producers in many countries for "trade remedies" in the form of contingency measures, including safeguards, anti-dumping duties and countervailing duties. There has been active use of anti-dumping laws by many countries, as well as of other trade measures in such areas as rules of origin. The most affected sectors include metals, plastics, textiles and clothing, footwear and headwear.

14. The Uruguay Round approved Agreements, including those on Subsidies and Countervailing Measures, TRIPS and TRIMs. The provisions on special and differential treatment in favour of developing countries contained in these Agreements need to be fully implemented and operationalized. The experience to date with implementation of some of these Agreements has revealed existing and potential problems for developing countries that should be analysed.

15. The GATS provides a very useful framework for liberalization, in particular through its flexible structure which allows countries to liberalize at their own pace, in line with their development situation. The GATS explicitly states as an objective that of facilitating and increasing the participation of developing countries in trade in services. However, the actual degree of market access commitments on trade in services entered into by countries varies considerably among sectors and in relation to individual modes of supply; market access conditions for commercial presence have been emphasized, rather than the movement of service providers as natural persons. Countries have also negotiated exemptions from MFN under the GATS, and attached them as lists of exemptions thereto. Considerable scope thus remains for further liberalization in a range of service sectors, particularly those of special interest to developing countries.

16. The generalized system of preferences (GSP) has played a significant role in providing preferential market access opportunities to many developing countries and still remains an important instrument for potential further liberalization of market access for many developing countries, although there has been an erosion in the margin of preferences as a result of MFN-based tariff reductions. Many developing countries benefit from special preferential arrangements such as the Lomé Convention and the Caribbean Basin Initiative (CBI).

(ii) UN-NADAF

17. The primary objective of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s (UN-NADAF) was the accelerated transformation, integration, diversification and growth of African economies, the reduction of vulnerability to external shocks, enhanced self-reliance and dynamism, and internalization of the process of development. At the 1996 mid-term review of the implementation of UN-NADAF, the General Assembly recognized the advances made by many African countries in economic reform and adjustment, as well as the intensification of the democratization process and the strengthening of civil society. Notwithstanding these efforts, Africa's economic and social problems remain acute. While various initiatives are being undertaken in favour of Africa, many of the commitments made in the context of UN-NADAF by the international community remain to be completed. These commitments concern the reduction of African debt, adequate resource flows, provision of greater market access and assistance in diversification and capacity-building.

18. The principle that the development of Africa remains the responsibility of African countries supported by global partnership and international cooperation was reiterated recently, for example, at the Second Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD II). Development partners are encouraged to support African countries' efforts based upon this principle.

19. The debt overhang of African countries remains a major obstacle to their development, with debt servicing absorbing a very substantial part of their revenues, crowding out national investment in human and physical infrastructure.

20. Many African countries continue to be dependent on a handful of commodities for their export earnings and development. Commodity prices as a whole have fallen considerably since 1998. Expectations of increased levels of savings and investment are therefore very low. Despite policy efforts by a large number of African countries to improve the climate for private investment, FDI flows to most African countries have remained low. Many African countries continue to rely on ODA to bridge the financing gap. However, ODA flows currently represent less than 0.2 per cent of the total GDP of the Development Assistance Committee (DAC) countries, far short of UN targets. This continues to be a major cause of concern.

21. Moreover, emergency relief due to problems arising from humanitarian crises is absorbing a greater portion of aid budgets.

22. As to the question of market access, the duties that are applied to textiles, clothing and shoes in some developed countries' markets remain high, and quotas continue to apply. In addition to tariffs, sanitary and phytosanitary measures and their implementation are in some cases an impediment for increased imports of products from Africa. Despite improvements in some GSP schemes, they are still insufficient to meet the needs of Africa. Special agricultural safeguard measures *vis-à-vis* African exports persist.

(iii) Least developed countries

23. The Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s embodied a commitment to arrest and reverse the decline in the socioeconomic condition of LDCs, but the 1995 High-Level Intergovernmental Meeting on the Mid-term Global Review on the Implementation of the Programme of Action and subsequent reviews by the Trade and Development Board clearly showed that the commitments contained in the Programme of Action have not been fully implemented. This, and in certain cases the lack of ownership and full participation in the design of policy reforms by LDCs has affected the implementation and impact of these reforms.

24. At the national level, the development of LDCs has been constrained by shortcomings in physical infrastructure and human resources development; low levels of domestic resource mobilization; shortcomings in macroeconomic policy design and management; severe socio-economic consequences of local or regional conflicts afflicting a number of LDCs; a high rate of population growth; a generally disappointing performance in the agricultural and rural sector; an inability to integrate women adequately as full agents and beneficiaries of development; and a lack of appropriate policies and of legal and institutional frameworks for the promotion of private entrepreneurship.

25. The development of LDCs has also been limited by their continued vulnerability to natural disasters, and where natural disasters have occurred, efforts have often concentrated on

immediate disaster relief, without always fully addressing the requirements of mitigating the adverse impact of natural disasters and of long-term reconstruction.

26. Overall, the external environment facing LDCs has remained difficult. Their share in world trade remains extremely low and their economies continue to be vulnerable to instability in commodity markets. ODA flows continue to be of critical importance in sustaining growth and development in LDCs. However, those flows have continued to decline, and few donor countries have met or surpassed the UN targets. The LDCs' external debt burden continues to be unsustainably high, amounting to about 90 per cent of their combined GDP.

27. The High-Level Meeting on Integrated Initiatives for the Least Developed Countries' Trade Development convened by WTO in 1997 endorsed the Integrated Framework for Trade-Related Technical Assistance, including for Human and Institutional Capacity Building, to Support Least Developed Countries in their Trade and Trade-Related Activities. The implementation of this Framework has progressed at a slow pace. In order to move the process forward, and bearing in mind that it has to be demand-driven, resources made available by the six agencies involved should be utilized in line with their respective roles. This should also be consistent with the Singapore WTO Plan of Action for LDCs and build upon existing agreements embodied in the 1997 Integrated Framework initiative.

28. At the High-Level Meeting and subsequently, notifications of market access and trade opportunities offered to LDCs were made by a number of developed and developing countries.

29. The "Partnership for Growth and Development" adopted by UNCTAD IX defined LDCs as a cross-cutting issue in UNCTAD's work and stated that LDCs should have priority in the assistance provided by UNCTAD. UNCTAD is also the focal point for LDCs of the United Nations system. Regrettably, the results have not been up to expectations. The LDCs' specific problems have not been addressed in a sufficiently integrated manner or received adequate priority.

30. The Trust Fund for LDCs was established in early 1997 to facilitate the start-up of new activities and enhance UNCTAD's technical cooperation activities in support of these countries. The target for the Trust Fund was $5 million per annum. Total contributions from 13 donor countries - developed and developing - have amounted to approximately $5.2 million so far. Contributions should continue to be sought from as many countries as possible and the maximizing of contributions is to be seen as a collective endeavour involving all States members of UNCTAD and relevant non-government actors such as NGOs, foundations and private companies.

31. The Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, to be hosted by the European Union in Brussels in the year 2001, will be a major event and an important occasion to renew the collective commitment of the international community to assist LDCs in

their efforts to improve their socio-economic conditions and promote their progressive integration into the world economy.

(iv) Debt relief

32. In the area of debt, two major developments have taken place in the second half of the decade: the launching of the initiative to deal with the debt of the heavily indebted poor countries (HIPCs) in a comprehensive way; and the mobilization of large-scale rescue packages for middle-income debtor countries in payments crises.

The HIPC initiative

33. In 1996, the international donor community agreed to launch a debt initiative designed to implement a strategy of burden-sharing among all creditors to reduce the debt of the HIPCs to a sustainable level, thus providing an exit from the rescheduling process. Today four countries (Uganda, Bolivia, Guyana and Mozambique) have reached final completion. For the HIPCs, repeated reschedulings of bilateral debt in the past have not significantly reduced the amount of outstanding debt. Expansion of the HIPC programme, as proposed at the Cologne Summit in June 1999, and as endorsed by the international finance institutions at the end of September 1999, addresses the limitations of the previous initiative by providing deeper, faster and broader debt relief and broadening the scope of the initiative.

Financial rescue packages

34. No mechanism is available to handle large-scale restructuring of the debt owed by many private borrowers in the banking or corporate sector to a multitude of foreign lenders, including bond holders. The payments difficulties of the countries affected by the financial crises of the 1990s have been tackled by the mobilization by official creditor countries and institutions of rescue packages the size of which has become larger with each crisis. These large-scale rescue packages have complemented domestic efforts to tide over debtor countries suffering severe liquidity crises.

(v) Major United Nations conferences

35. Over the last decade a number of important United Nations conferences have contributed to greater awareness on cross-cutting challenges such as environment and development, social development, gender, human rights, habitat, and population and development. Comprehensive plans of action and specific collective commitments on the part of the international community have been adopted. Many of these commitments have not yet been fully implemented.

C. Measures and initiatives to be taken by the international community to ensure successful integration of developing countries into the world economy

36. An important challenge for the international community is to secure the integration of developing countries, including the structurally weak, vulnerable and small economies and countries in transition, into the globalizing world economy and to reduce the risk of marginalization. The coherence and consistency of macroeconomic policies must be enhanced at the national, regional and international levels. The lack of territorial access to the sea, aggravated by remoteness and isolation from world markets, imposes serious constraints on the overall socio-economic development efforts of the land-locked developing countries. Likewise, island developing countries, particularly the small and remote ones among them, also face constraints.

(i) Finance and investment

37. A series of financial crises, including the recent Asian crisis, has highlighted the need to strengthen international cooperation efforts to improve the existing international financial system with a view to preventing recurrence of crisis, providing better mechanisms for crisis management and making it more conducive to trade and development. In the area of the mobilization of external resources for development, the challenges ahead include the following: mobilizing enhanced and more stable sources of international investment flows towards a larger number of recipient developing countries; reversing the decline in ODA and ensuring effective targeting and use of ODA as a catalyst for sustained economic growth and sustainable development; and finding lasting solutions to the debt problems of developing countries. The challenge ahead also lies in sustaining and, where needed, elaborating the suitable domestic framework to attract foreign investment. In the area of the mobilization of internal resources, it requires increasing domestic savings and ensuring the efficiency of national financial markets.

ODA

38. Official development assistance remains a critical resource for developing countries. The decline in the level of ODA is therefore a matter of serious concern. Efforts should be made to prevent assistance for development projects and programmes competing with other claims on development assistance and emergency aid. The decline in replenishments of concessional windows of multilateral development banks is also a matter of concern. Targeted and well coordinated development assistance can be used to reinforce efforts in the recipient countries to create an enabling environment for private sector activity and domestic and foreign investment, promote economic and social policies, and develop effective economic and judicial institutions which contribute to the quality of aid. ODA should *inter alia* contribute to physical infrastructure and capacity-building.

39. Increasing concern has been voiced about the urgent need to reduce poverty in poor countries. The members of the Development Assistance Committee (DAC) of OECD have renewed their commitments in respect of a development partnership strategy designed to reduce the proportion of the world's population living in extreme poverty by 50 per cent by the year 2015. The volume of ODA should be progressively brought into line with the United Nations target of 0.7 % of industrialized countries' GDP and the target of 0.2 % for the LDCs. In addition, the international community could consider the possibilities of bolder initiatives in this field whose objectives would include contributing to human development. Lessons should also be drawn from successful examples of the channelling of official aid with a view to encouraging the mobilization and effective use of official resources for development.

40. It is essential to ensure that existing resources for development purposes yield a better development impact. Recent efforts by OECD donor countries to untie their ODA to respond better to national development needs are encouraging, and efforts to untie ODA for LDCs should continue.

Debt

41. Debt problems are a serious obstacle to the pursuit of economic and social development. High debt-servicing burdens deprive debtor developing countries of the resources needed to build a competitive basis for economic development and to develop a strong social and physical infrastructure. Debt problems of poor countries have become deeper in the aftermath of the global financial crisis. In parallel, middle-income countries which have access to international capital markets have been repeatedly hit by financial crises.

42. Debt relief should form part of a comprehensive framework which would ensure that debtor countries do not fall back into arrears by eliminating the structural causes of indebtedness. Creditor nations must now give the poorest members of the world community a new start. The initiative taken at the Cologne Summit to provide faster, deeper and broader debt relief for the poorest countries is highly encouraging.

43. The enhancements of the HIPC Initiative, which were proposed at the Cologne Summit and subsequently endorsed at the IMF/World Bank meeting in September 1999, will link debt relief with poverty alleviation and allow debtor countries to target budgetary savings to social expenditures. The Cologne Summit has called upon all bilateral creditors to forgive all concessional debt owed by qualified HIPC countries. Faster debt relief would be provided through earlier cash flow relief ("interim relief") and by allowing an earlier stock reduction.

44. With regard to African debt, this complex and important problem needs further consideration. Continued attention should be given to identifying ways and means of improving the situation and to addressing the causes of indebtedness in African countries so that they can devote more of their resources to basic social needs, including health care and education. In this

context, the international community may wish to consider ways and means of identifying that portion of the debt assessed as unpayable for possible action by creditors.

45. In the case of middle-income countries faced with acute liquidity crisis, large financial rescue packages have been mobilized to allow debtor countries to face their short-term debt obligations. While the Paris Club provides a framework for a rescheduling of official bilateral debt and the London Club for restructuring of syndicated bank lending, no clear debt restructuring framework has been established to help these countries to negotiate quick debt restructuring with their private creditors, especially bond holders. This complex problem needs further research.

46. The ability of all countries, especially developing ones, to manage their debt obligations is important: assistance to allow them to do this in an effective, efficient way should be encouraged.

Investment

47. The mobilization of external resources for development in the 1990s has been characterized by an increasing privatization of resource flows to developing countries. International investment flows have increased at a faster pace than world output and world trade since the early 1980s. As a result, international investment and in particular FDI has emerged as one of the driving forces in the world economy, contributing not only to the integration of markets, but also, increasingly, to the integration of national production systems. The composition of capital flows has changed, with foreign direct investment (FDI) and foreign portfolio investment (FPI) accounting for the largest shares of total net resource flows to developing countries. Since 1980, FDI flows to developing countries have climbed significantly, but are heavily concentrated in a few countries. While FDI is a more stable form of investment, FPI is often more volatile. Both types of flows have different characteristics and may have differing impacts on the development of recipient countries. This is all the more important as FDI represents a package that includes not only capital but also technology, organizational and management practices, skills and access to international markets. Countries that do not attract sufficient FDI flows are also deprived of other tangible and intangible resources which are central to development.

48. To attract such resources, developing countries strive to create a favourable and enabling investment climate to attract international investment flows. In addition, national efforts at liberalization are increasingly complemented by facilitation and protection efforts at the international level. However, while FDI flows to developing countries have increased, the LDCs' share in total FDI flows stood at less than one-half of one per cent in 1998. To remedy this situation, policies need to be developed by developing countries to attract and benefit from FDI. The international community should support developing countries in their efforts to devise FDI strategies and appropriate proactive policy frameworks and institutions which would impose the least possible burden on fiscal resources. Some countries have introduced home country measures to promote FDI flows to developing countries, and such measures deserve to

be encouraged. A favourable and enabling investment climate which mobilizes FDI and domestic savings and channels them into productive investments also requires that the suppliers of capital have reliable, transparent and comparable financial information.

49. In order to minimize risks resulting from financial turmoil, the liberalization of capital markets should be supported by prudential rules and supervision of financial markets. In this context, progress should be made in strengthening the solidity of domestic financial sectors, as well as macro-economic performance, on the one hand, and in improving the international financial system with regard to transparency of flows (from lending and borrowing sides), prevention of financial crisis and the fight against capital flight, money laundering and tax evasion, as well as stabilizing international financial markets, on the other hand.

(ii) International trade

Trade liberalization

50. The liberalization of national trade regimes has enhanced opportunities for trade-based and in particular export-based growth. In the course of the implementation of the WTO Agreements, most developing countries consider that certain imbalances and asymmetries exist. Some countries have had difficulties with respect to certain agreements due to human, institutional and financial constraints. These problems need to be addressed urgently so as to ensure that the multilateral trading system results in mutual benefits for all countries.

51. Further, although developing countries need policy flexibility to support and promote their enterprises, investments in production and marketing, and export expansion and diversification, latecomers now face more stringent policy conditions than those which prevailed previously. The multilateral framework of WTO rules contributes to a stable and predictable environment, though it has in certain cases narrowed the range of policy options for Governments. Commitments undertaken under IMF/World Bank structural adjustment programmes have further reduced the remaining policy options.

Policy consistency

52. Trade policies and trade liberalization should be made more consistent with overall development objectives. In developing countries, ways and means need to be sought to ensure that trade makes a more decisive contribution to alleviating poverty. The role of trade for stimulating economic growth, the distribution of growth effects, and sectoral policies for agricultural and tourism development, and in the longer term for diversification into industry and advanced services, require further attention, including monitoring of the developmental impact of multilateral trade agreements.

53. There is a similar need for improved policy coherence in developed countries both domestically and internationally, in particular between sectoral, tax and fiscal policies on the

one hand and the objectives of their own development policies on the other; and between their own policy conduct and the policy advice extended to developing countries in the context of technical assistance. A reduction in tariff levels and a simplification of tariff structures would help raise developing country exports. Subsidies can affect the relative competitive positions of countries and have a distorting effect on developing countries. Developed countries should consider the effects of their fiscal policy choices on the needs of developing countries. In addition, unilateral measures, including measures with extraterritorial effects, risk having a negative effect on efforts to move towards a truly non-discriminatory and open trading system.

54. The conditions necessary for the effective implementation of the WTO agreements, particularly in the developing countries, need to be ensured. Developing countries consider that existing transition periods have not always been sufficient. Any new agreement reached should consider adequate provisions for assistance to the developing countries to enable them to establish the necessary infrastructure and other conditions necessary for the effective implementation of the agreements and to ensure that these countries benefit from the opportunities offered by these agreements. Cooperation is also required among international organizations, including UNCTAD, the World Bank, UNDP, WTO, IMF and ITC, and regional development banks in helping to provide the necessary assistance to countries with respect to their rights and obligations under the multilateral trading system so as to allow them to reap the full benefits.

55. It is clear that while the rules-based system seeks to establish a level playing field, remaining trade barriers have a negative impact, particularly on developing countries. Whilst trade barriers in the main markets are now generally low for most trade of developed countries, there is a lack of equal opportunities for developing countries' exports in the present system. Thus, a number of export products of particular interest to developing countries such as textiles are often subject to high import barriers, including non-tariff barriers. Unlike the industrial sector of trade in goods, the multilateral trade rules relating to agriculture permit the payment of large transfers to agricultural producers in some countries. This support for agricultural production and exports in developed countries can have significant distorting effects, particularly on developing countries. And high protection for the domestic food industry in some developed countries hampers diversification and value-added production in developing countries. WTO rules are stringent with respect to subsidies primarily used by developing countries. Also, anti-dumping measures and countervailing duties are used by many countries in sectors where exporters from developing countries are competitive. Finally, there is an asymmetry between liberalization of trade in goods and services on the one hand and labour-intensive services on the other, which particularly affects developing countries.

56. More focused financial and technical assistance should be provided to address effectively the problem of food security in net food-importing developing countries. In particular, concrete measures should be taken to ensure the implementation of the Marrakech Ministerial Decision on Measures Concerning Possible Negative Effects of the Reform Programme on Least Developed and Net Food-Importing Developing Countries. Non-trade

concerns such as food security, as well as special and differential treatment for developing countries, as referred to in the Agreement on Agriculture, should be taken into account in all relevant bodies and organizations.

57. Another issue requiring attention relates to the fact that many developing countries face problems when trying to diversify into higher value-added and manufactured exports with more dynamic demand prospects. Barriers to entry in those sectors where they should have the best chance of exporting need to be addressed, such as textiles, clothing, and the food industry. Sanitary and phytosanitary measures (SPS) should be adopted when justified in line with the SPS Agreement, which recognizes the importance of relevant international standards. The full participation of developing countries in the elaboration of international standards in these fields should be enhanced.

58. Market access conditions for agricultural and industrial products of export interest to LDCs should be improved on as broad and liberal a basis as possible and urgent consideration should be given to the proposal for a possible commitment by developed countries to grant duty-free and quota-free market access for essentially all exports originating in LDCs and other proposals to maximize market access for LDCs. Consideration should also be given to proposals for developing countries to contribute to improved market access for LDCs' exports. All countries that announced market access commitments at the High-level Meeting on Integrated Initiatives for Least Developed Countries' Trade Development in October 1997 are invited to implement these commitments fully and expeditiously.

59. As many developing countries, including a considerable number of LDCs, are not members of WTO, the accession process should be facilitated and based on terms that take into account their stage of development and the basic principles of special and differential treatment.

Special and differential treatment

60. The basic principles of special and differential treatment (SDT) for developing countries are fully established and recognized in the various decisions of the United Nations General Assembly, UNCTAD and WTO. Modernization and operationalization of special and differential treatment, in particular in terms of maintaining and expanding export opportunities for developing countries, may be needed to adapt it to changing international trading conditions and to make special and differential treatment a better instrument for development, enabling developing countries, in particular the LDCs, to gradually integrate into the multilateral trading system. Developing countries should be enabled to make full use of the SDT provisions.

61. Widening gaps between developing country export performance and international competitiveness call for stronger emphasis on direct policy action in respect of structural production and investment conditions and reinforced international support. Price and preferential incentives alone have not brought about a broad turnaround where the production basis was not sufficiently developed to expand exports. Nor have they been sufficient in such

cases to attract large-scale foreign investment. Attention could be given to a supply-side emphasis for such treatment, providing space in the multilateral trade disciplines for appropriate development policies essential for the development of a competitive supply capacity. Special and differential treatment in WTO Agreements, such as the Agreement on Subsidies and Countervailing Measures, needs consideration in order to better reflect the developing countries' needs.

62. The special and differential measures in favour of LDCs as contained in the Final Act of the Uruguay Round, especially the Marrakech Declaration and Ministerial Decisions, should be implemented in full and as a matter of priority. New measures for LDCs should also be considered.

63. New trading opportunities created by improved market access to developed countries within regional or multilateral agreements need to be complemented by operational programmes, technical assistance and development financing. Such measures would make preferential market access more effective. In parallel, there are various ways in which the GSP could be made more effective, in particular with respect to LDCs. Concrete action should be taken so that a greater number of developing countries can benefit effectively from the GSP and other preferential arrangements.

Commodities

64. Many developing countries, and in particular most of those with weak growth performance, remain highly dependent on commodities for their trade, production income and employment. Commodities continue to provide an important source of foreign exchange earnings for developing countries: they have a high value-added potential; and agricultural commodities are an important source of employment and offer scope for anti-poverty campaigns. Agriculture *inter alia* acts as a buffer against economic problems and allows the return to rural areas of urban unemployed, as in the current crisis. Commodity-based diversification therefore offers a major opportunity for change in line with existing comparative advantages. The important role played by commodity protocols in the socio-economic development of certain developing countries should be highlighted.

65. However, actual developments in the commodity sector have lived up to such expectations in only a few countries:

- Dependence on few commodities has remained high in many developing countries.

- Tariff escalation has been a major barrier to commodity processing in developing countries.

- Rather than diversification of commodity patterns of trade, in several countries concentration has increased over the past decade; only a few countries have made tangible progress in diversification, primarily based on agro-business.

- Commodity price instability has remained extremely high, with declining trends for a number of commodities.

- Wider use of risk management in commodities should be evaluated and be made available as appropriate, with regard to the usefulness for small producers in developing countries.

- Commodity earnings instability continues to be problematic. The IMF's commodity stabilization facility has remained unused for the past decade.

- High levels of investment in and substantial rationalization of the commodity sector in many developing countries have resulted mainly in productivity increases benefiting world markets, but only to a small extent in benefits for producers.

- Despite improvements as a result of the introduction of the SPS Agreement, many developing countries continue to experience difficulties with sanitary and phytosanitary standards, limiting their ability to export.

- The dynamism of niche products in the agricultural sector has sometimes faded away after initial success, for example because of restricted import periods or the application of anti-dumping and countervailing duties.

66. The existing mechanisms for helping to stabilize commodity export earnings should be improved so as to respond to the real concerns of developing country producers.

67. The competitiveness of developing countries in international commodity markets needs to be enhanced. Cooperative arrangements among enterprises in developing countries for improving supply reliability and quality should be considered.

68. Market transparency and information should be improved, as should capacities of developing country enterprises to access and use information, particularly in electronic form, and training to this end should be supported.

Competition

69. Liberalization of trade and investment inside and outside WTO has accelerated globalization and, together with technological progress, enabled TNCs to pursue worldwide strategies. Major TNCs now focus on the entire world market and seek to achieve leading world

market positions in their core business through mergers, acquisitions, strategic alliances, investment or trade. While dominant market positions are not anti-competitive in themselves, certain practices applied by companies enjoying such positions can limit international competition and market entry by competitors. Anti-competitive practices raise import costs and limit market access and market entry. In this situation, some developing countries find it difficult to establish and enforce national competition rules to safeguard market forces and free market entry. In order to enable those countries to better address and discipline anti-competitive practices, it is essential for countries which have national competition rules in place to back them up with an appropriate system of enforcement. Technical assistance, training and other related measures towards this end should be supported.

70. RBPs should not impede or negate the realization of benefits arising from the liberalization of tariff and non-tariff barriers affecting world trade, particularly those affecting the trade and development of developing countries. Efforts to tackle the negative effects of RBPs are also necessary to attain greater efficiency in international trade and development by, *inter alia*, promoting competition, controlling concentration of economic power and encouraging innovation. There is a need to prevent enterprises from re-establishing market barriers where governmental controls have been removed. Developing countries, which do not have many worldwide TNCs, have a major interest in seeing that their access and entry to their major export markets is kept open and unrestricted by anti-competitive practices.

Services

71. Progressive liberalization of trade in services is meant to benefit economic development. Improved market access for developing countries' service exporters is one important benefit. Exports of labour-intensive services have been an important source of income in many developing countries and have contributed to the upgrading of qualifications in several developing countries. However, the asymmetry of globalization processes between product and factor markets and between capital and labour has been to the detriment of the latter, thus limiting the scope for expansion of developing country services exports. Moreover, because of weak infrastructures and *inter alia* their limited access to technology and distribution network channels, many developing countries have not yet developed the capacity to compete effectively in the world market for services. Strengthening developing countries' domestic service capacity, *inter alia* through technical and financial assistance, is therefore of utmost importance.

72. Developing countries' institutional, financial and human capacities and regulatory framework in the services sector should be further enhanced to enable them to engage effectively in international trade in services.

73. To enable them to derive maximum advantage from existing and potential markets, developing countries need assistance in upgrading and developing their services infrastructure and in securing reliable information on the extent of services trade and on market access and barriers to services trade. A more transparent and sounder regulatory framework would also

assist developing countries. Within the framework of the GATS, particular efforts should be made to liberalize sectors and modes of supply of interest to developing countries, including the supply of services via the temporary movement of natural persons. Disciplines need to be formulated in such a way that provisions on requirements, qualification procedures, licenses and technical standards must not constitute unnecessary barriers to trade.

74. Electronic commerce shrinks economic distances between producers and consumers and could transform industry structures to the potential advantage of developing country suppliers. But for them to take advantage of this potential, they need access to modern telecommunications infrastructures and networks at low cost. Moreover, electronic commerce could provide a means of exporting labour-intensive services, but only if adequate access to technology is obtained. Electronic commerce should not be seen as a substitute for easing restrictions on the supply of services through temporary movements of natural persons.

ECDC and economic integration

75. Economic cooperation among developing countries (ECDC) and regional and subregional economic integration retain their full relevance. A new potential is growing in certain developing countries as they become major foreign investors and major manufacturers and exporters. There is therefore increased scope for cooperation among developing countries to expand mutual trade and investment and tighten industrial and technological cooperation. The South Summit in the year 2000, to be held in Havana, should mark a major turning point in the field of ECDC and in the enhancement of North-South relations.

76. The second round of negotiations of the Global System of Trade Preferences among Developing Countries (GSTP) has now been concluded. It would be worthwhile considering the further deepening and expansion of the GSTP in order to enhance its effects. In that context, it would, however, be useful to examine possible ways of rationalizing the process of negotiations for a third round.

77. Subregional and regional integration offers a multisectoral framework of cooperation which combines the tools of trade expansion with cooperation in respect of investment, services, transport, customs facilitation and other areas which mutually enhance each other's effectiveness. Producers can benefit from economies of scale. Subregional integration is a means to diversify into new export products, to encourage many new firms to export for the first time, to gain experience on the regional market, and to become competitive in certain branches where the regional market exceeds the threshold of cost effectiveness. Subregional integration can therefore constitute a major stage in the learning process for attaining international competitiveness and, in certain industries, a phase in the process leading towards later expansion towards world markets. It can also strengthen the position of members in trade negotiations.

(iii) Other development-related issues

Enterprise development

78. Many SMEs do not realize their full potential contribution to employment, growth, diversification, widening of the export base, a vibrant industrial sector and development because they lack access to markets, finance, business skills, technology and training. These traditional "access" problems have in some cases been alleviated by and in other cases compounded by globalization and liberalization. Production is now increasingly knowledge-based and competition now occurs on the basis of both continuous innovation and price. Knowledge-based production cuts across all sectors and even includes the traditional sectors. Entrepreneurs must master design, have extensive knowledge of markets and technology, and become innovative.

79. The impact of the WTO commitments on national policies for SME development, particularly those facilitating market access, has yet to be assessed. In addition, environmental and health-related standards may affect exports by developing country companies and SMEs to countries in which these standards have to be met. Some LDCs have already experienced export losses. Participation of developing countries in standard setting needs to be enhanced.

80. Despite their vast numbers, SMEs have traditionally had difficulty in accessing formal credit, particularly long-term finance. The key reasons for this are well known: SMEs are considered high-risk undertakings due to their insufficient assets and low capitalization, vulnerability to market conditions and high failure rates; in many countries, banks are biased in favour of large corporate borrowers or public-sector entities; information asymmetry arising from SMEs' lack of accounting records and other financial documentation makes it difficult for banks to assess the creditworthiness of potential SME borrowers; and the high administrative costs of lending small amounts generally do not make SME lending a profitable business for banks.

81. The key issues that need to be addressed if long-term capital is to be made available are the provision of acceptable collateral or its alternative in terms of guarantee schemes and the lowering of administrative/transaction costs. Suppliers of capital need reliable, transparent and comparable financial information. Increased transparency can only increase investor confidence and the supply of investment and credit to large and small enterprises alike. The promotion of internationally recognized accounting and auditing standards can help improve transparency and disclosure worldwide. Some developing countries and countries with economies in transition may need assistance in implementation.

82. The growth and survival of SMEs in a globalizing world economy require the adoption at the national and international level of policies and programmes which allow them to compete both at home and abroad. At the national level, new supporting structures are needed, including

programmes for entrepreneurship and innovative capacity-building, ability to meet new standards being set in international negotiations, and information on market opportunities. A number of measures can be taken to increase SMEs' access to markets, finance, business skills and technology. The need for new international standards for product quality and the environment should be taken into account, with the full participation of developing countries in future standard-setting. Since SMEs excel at job creation, and job creation is key to reducing poverty, policies and programmes to support SMEs should be promoted.

Transfer of technology and know-how

83. The technological gap between developed and developing countries is wide and for most of them increasing. Technology flows tend to be associated with investment in and expansion of technologically sophisticated industries. A better understanding needs to be achieved of the various channels for transfer of technology, such as FDI and trade. Technology does not automatically flow from developed countries to developing countries. Reducing the technology gap requires efforts on the part of developing countries to acquire and cultivate technology, as well as efforts on the part of developed countries to transfer technology and know-how.

84. With the appearance of new technologies and liberalization of foreign investment, productive activities can be segmented and spread around the world in different locations, and thus more countries have potential opportunities to participate in international production and trade. But these opportunities are not easily tapped by all countries. Countries with a broad range of technological capabilities are better positioned to host specialized activities in the various segments of goods and services production. Created technological assets, in conjunction with appropriate policy and regulatory environments, more than traditional factor endowments, determine comparative advantage in today's knowledge-based world economy.

85. New technologies such as information technology and electronic commerce will revolutionize the way business is conducted and could provide SMEs with unprecedented access to global markets. At the same time, they could also endanger the survival and growth of some SMEs. Other technologies such as environmentally sound technologies, biotechnology and new materials development also present opportunities for developing countries provided they have access to these technologies and the skills, absorptive capacity and finance to adopt and adapt them. In addition, all countries should establish an adequate regulatory framework to provide effective protection of intellectual property.

86. Technological development is therefore important for the integration and participation of developing countries in the international trading system. Such development can be facilitated by domestic and international actions, including human resource development, establishment and strengthening of appropriate policy and legal frameworks and the competitive environment, encouraging the establishment of more sophisticated industries, establishment of science and technology institutes and infrastructure, encouragement of business support services, and home country measures that encourage the transfer of technology, as well as environmentally sound

technologies, to developing countries, in particular the least developed countries, on the terms laid down in Agenda 21 adopted at the Rio Summit.

87. There is need for an exchange of best practices and the provision of technical and, where possible, financial assistance to countries seeking to improve their technological capabilities. There is also need for the provision of advisory services to countries, and even firms, to help them articulate needs for specific technology, to acquire it knowledgeably and to use it effectively. Among the obstacles to effective transfer of technology to enterprises located in developing countries are the weak infrastructures, restricted financial resources and limited bargaining capacity of recipient enterprises.

88. There is need to help developing countries in assessing their technology needs, identifying technology suppliers and concluding mutually beneficial technology deals and partnerships in areas such as information technology, biotechnology and environmentally sound technologies.

89. The importance of transfer of technology to developing countries has been recognized in various forums. In the context of WTO, the TRIPS Agreement states that developed country members should provide incentives to their enterprises and institutions for the purpose of promoting and encouraging technology transfer to the least developed countries in order to enable them to create a sound and viable technological base.

Trade-supporting services

90. Apart from acquiring the necessary technological know-how, the ability of developing countries and many countries with economies in transition to benefit from their participation in the ever more complex global economic system will also depend on the capacity of their enterprises to compete in both domestic and international markets. For this, the existence of adequate trade-supporting services such as trade facilitation, transport, customs, banking and insurance, human resources development and business information is a necessary condition.

91. Strategies to establish more efficient trade-supporting services and a greater involvement of private sector players represent a useful area for development assistance to support sustainable development efforts. They should also take full advantage of the falling cost of gathering, processing and transmitting information and the wider availability of information technologies. In these strategies, which constitute the core of the concept of trade efficiency, the promotion of electronic commerce in developing countries should be given full consideration.

92. Through a radical shift among the relative prices of transferring factors of production across borders (information-intensive ones in particular), electronic commerce has started to affect in a profound and irreversible manner the nature and rationale of a significant portion of international trade flows.

93. The generation of more efficient services to support the promotion of entrepreneurship has an enormous potential to contribute towards the elimination of poverty and social exclusion by assisting people engaged in the micro enterprise and informal sectors.

94. A functioning transport sector determines the degree of participation of countries in the global trading system. Inefficient procedures, excessive transport costs or non-availability of connections create a major barrier blocking access to foreign markets. Any attempt to increase the competitiveness of export goods in foreign markets will thus have to address both the cost and quality of land and ocean transport services available to traders in developing countries, and especially land-locked and small island developing countries.

95. A modern and efficient customs administration is of critical importance for the better participation of countries in international trade because it helps to perform three major tasks: (1) it collects duties, which represent a sizeable part of government revenue in developing countries; (2) it is essential in the fight against the traffic in illegal products; and (3) it gathers trade statistics which are vital for policy-making.

96. To be integrated into the world economy, developing countries also need to pay special attention to the development of national trade-related financial service capacities. Lack of credit information systems and of knowledge related to modern trade finance products and institutions prevents these countries from adapting to the internationally accepted requirements of financial systems.

97. It is estimated that, in the two years following UNCTAD X, electronic commerce will exceed 10 per cent of total world trade. Many analyses and projections stress that developing countries and small and medium-sized enterprises could be among the main potential beneficiaries of the opportunities it will generate. However, the benefits of electronic commerce could stay out of reach for many developing countries if obstacles and issues such as the following are not addressed: (1) access: the Internet often remains too expensive for smaller users in developing countries; (2) human resources: the sensitization of Governments and business to the importance of electronic commerce and the dissemination of relevant skills (technical and managerial) remain priorities; (3) content: the ability (specially for SMEs) to benefit from electronic commerce implies an acceleration in the production of local content and marketing on the World Wide Web; (4) appropriate legal and regulatory frameworks: issues like certification, authentication, protection of intellectual property, and encryption will need to be considered, with the involvement of developing countries in the relevant discussions and negotiations; (5) financial and fiscal dimensions: payment guarantee mechanisms and trade financing techniques will be radically affected by the expansion of electronic commerce; the impact of electronic payments on monetary creation should also be considered; the implications of various electronic commerce fiscal scenarios for developing countries are still unclear and need to be further explored; and (6) security and governance: the respective roles of Governments, international organizations and the private sector in defining some of the underpinnings of electronic commerce (Internet top-level domain names, trademarks, content

control, for example) need to be further defined. The ongoing international debates on a 'global framework for electronic commerce' are starting to include a development dimension. Unless such a dimension is properly taken into account, electronic commerce could still result in a broadening rather than a narrowing of the gap between the 'haves' and the 'have nots' of the emerging global information society.

98. The experience of countries that have been successful in this area often includes an effective mobilization of civil society to attain the objectives of a knowledge-based economy: Governments, enterprises and local communities have participated in different kinds of "national task forces". This is an experience that can be shared with other countries through exchanges and debates among various parts of civil society. International support will also be necessary. Priority should be given to direct exchanges of experience among institutions and enterprises involved in electronic commerce.

99. In order to enable developing countries' transport operators to prosper in a liberalized market environment, it is essential to implement policies aimed at capacity-building and removing obstacles for operators. These policies are intrinsically linked to liberalization processes. All operators would benefit from a regulatory and promotional environment that gives them a reasonable chance of success. More efficient transportation services would also strongly benefit local importers and exporters. This approach is not to be confused with a call for restrictive or discriminatory measures that would impede the freedom of choice of users of transport and logistics services. It does, however, call for some streamlining of administrative and regulatory procedures, such as conditions for ship registration, taxation, etc. The extent to which outdated trade and transport procedures are preventing developing countries and emerging economies from competing on a level playing field with developed countries has already been shown in several forums. The international community should assist Governments of developing countries in streamlining such procedures while simultaneously ensuring that simpler trade and transport procedures help the enterprises of developing countries in improving their participation in world trade by ensuring fair access to efficient and cost-competitive transportation services.

Human resources development

100. Enterprises in developing countries are affected by an overall shortage of skills, knowledge and aptitudes that impedes their ability to innovate and adapt to changing technology, legal requirements and commercial practices in the conduct of foreign trade. They also face difficulties in the introduction of improved work and management practices needed to enhance competitiveness in global markets. While these influences impinge on all economic processes, they are particularly restrictive in relation to trade-supporting services upon which the expansion and diversification of foreign trade depends.

101. Production processes and services must adapt to changing circumstances: as technology advances, regulations are reinforced and commercial practices change, each presenting new

opportunities and constraints. Personal abilities and practices must adapt accordingly, and human resource development must be given close attention. However, reaching beyond this evident need, further increases in efficiency and radical innovation will result increasingly from human endeavour and be a major source of future growth, so human resource development must become a key policy issue.

South-South cooperation

102. Development experiences of developing countries are valuable resources for designing development strategies. South-South cooperation should therefore be promoted through the sharing of development experiences among developing countries at different stages of development in cooperation with developed countries.

II. UNCTAD'S ENGAGEMENT

103. Ensuring that all countries enjoy the benefits of globalization requires meeting complex policy challenges which arise, particularly at the global macroeconomic level, from the growing interdependence of the various spheres of economic activity, including particularly trade, finance and investment, and the downside risks which this interdependence sometimes carries. UNCTAD, as the focal point within the United Nations for the integrated treatment of trade and development and the interrelated issues in the areas of finance, technology, investment and sustainable development, is pre-eminently placed to examine these issues and to build consensus for reformulation of policies in a globalizing world from a development perspective and has a major role to play in helping developing countries, in particular the least developed countries, and the economies in transition better understand how to design policies for an efficient integration into the world economy, taking into account the many new issues which confront policy-makers, and tailoring the process to each country's level of economic development and institutions. In this respect UNCTAD should continue to explore, based on relevant experience, how to enhance the development opportunities at the domestic, regional and international level offered by the globalization process.

104. In order to achieve these objectives UNCTAD should:

- Act as a forum for intergovernmental discussions and deliberations, supported by discussions with experts and exchanges of experience. These activities are aimed at consensus-building;

- Undertake research, analysis, and data collection *inter alia* in order to provide substantive inputs for the discussions of the experts and government representatives;

- Provide, in cooperation and coordination with other relevant organizations, recipient and donor countries, technical assistance tailored to the needs of the developing countries and linked with its research and analysis activities.

105. UNCTAD in its debates at the intergovernmental and at the expert level, in its analytical activities, as well as in technical cooperation, should continue to focus on four fields of activity: globalization and development; investment, enterprise development and technology; trade in goods and services and commodity issues; and services infrastructure for development and trade efficiency. Priorities within each of these areas should be identified and reflect the needs of developing countries and UNCTAD's comparative advantages. Member States should determine the possible cooperation between UNCTAD and the different actors of civil society. In conformity with its role as a focal point in the United Nations system for issues related to the least developed countries (LDCs), UNCTAD should continue to pay special attention, through analytical work and technical cooperation, to the concerns of LDCs and enhance its capacity to deal with the LDC-related issues in an integrated manner. UNCTAD should also further explore the role of economic cooperation among developing countries as an instrument to promote economic growth, stability and development.

106. In fulfilling its mandate, UNCTAD should take into account the work of other international organizations and should cooperate with them closely in order to enhance synergies, consistency, complementarity and mutual supportiveness of policies and avoid duplication

A. Globalization, interdependence and development

107. UNCTAD should continue to provide a forum for the exchange of views and perspectives on the evolution and management of globalization and on the interdependence of trade, finance, investment and technology as they affect the growth and development prospects of developing countries. The objective of this work will be to help promote policies and strategies at the national and international level that are conducive to development. With regard to financial and monetary issues, UNCTAD's work should bring in a development perspective. The focus should be on financing for development, consistent with efforts to ensure greater financial stability. Taking into account work done in other relevant organizations, UNCTAD should contribute to the debate on issues related to the strengthening and the ongoing reform of the international financial institutions, including the enhancing of early warning and response capabilities for dealing with the emergence and spread of financial crises, by continuing to provide relevant analysis from a development perspective. At the national level, UNCTAD could contribute to sound domestic macroeconomic and financial policies, administrative reforms and continuing efforts to promote a stable and transparent national legal and regulatory framework favourable to development. At the international level, this could be achieved through coherent international macroeconomic and financial policies and continuing efforts to promote stable international economic growth favourable to development.

108. UNCTAD's analytical work related to the interdependence between trade, finance, technology and investment and to the impact of such interdependence on development should contribute to achieving coherence of global economic policy-making. UNCTAD should also continue to analyse the causes and effects of financial crises, including the serious crisis in East Asia, and contribute to the debate on measures for the prevention, management and resolution of such crises.

109. Keeping in mind the "Evaluation of the developmental impact of globalization" as outlined in section I.A of this Plan of Action, UNCTAD should continue to focus on the implications of globalization for sustained economic growth and sustainable development. More specifically, there should be analytical work on:

- The possibilities of developing countries to enhance their development and integration into the global economy by *inter alia* strengthening the domestic forces of growth through capital accumulation and technological capacity building;

- The impact of macroeconomic reforms and structural adjustment on development, in the light of increasing global interdependence;

- Policies to improve the positive effects of globalization and to minimize the negative ones;

- Institutional reforms and capacity-building in the context of the indispensable foundations for the realisation of people-centred sustainable development, such as expanding and strengthening the democratic basis of institutions and ensuring sound public administration;

- The role of regional integration, both among developing countries and between developing and developed countries, in ensuring increased economic stability and mitigating the impact of adverse external shocks. This should include the analysis of experiences of regional integration. UNCTAD should provide a forum for the exchange of experiences among developing countries and developed countries on regional and subregional integration;

- The specific problems of LDCs in their efforts to integrate into the global economy;

- Management of public, external and domestic debt in developing countries in support of the work carried out by the DMFAS programme in this field, and in cooperation with other international organizations;

- The specific problems of countries with economies in transition in their efforts to integrate into the world economy, at a time when profound transformations of whole societies, including systemic, institutional, economic, social and cultural structures, are being implemented in these countries;

- A gender perspective contributing to the empowerment of women in order to achieve gender equality in all sectors of the economy;

110. In its work on globalization and development, UNCTAD should:

- Take into consideration the results of and experiences in the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries, as well as the Integrated Framework for Trade-Related Technical Assistance to Least Developed Countries;

- Contribute to the effective implementation of UN-NADAF by sustaining its analytical work in support of the realization of the objectives of the New Agenda and be fully involved in the processes leading up to and including its final review and appraisal in the year 2002; in line with paragraph 100 of General Assembly resolution 54/249, dated 23 December 1999, the Secretary-General of the United Nations is encouraged to establish a new subprogramme on Africa;
- Contribute to the implementation of the Barbados Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States and of the mandate arising from the twenty-second special session of the United Nations General Assembly;

- Identify priority areas for action at the national and subregional levels and propose programmes for land-locked and transit developing countries and structurally weak, vulnerable and small economies.

111. In its work on ODA, UNCTAD should continue to analyse trends of ODA flows and their impact on developing countries.

112. In its analytical work on debt, UNCTAD should analyse the debt problems of all developing countries, taking into account their specificities, with a view to identifying effective, development-oriented and durable solutions.

113. In its analytical work on portfolio investment, carried out in the context of its policy-oriented analysis of all forms of investment, UNCTAD should analyse in particular the implications of foreign portfolio investment and international financial flows for development, the causes and impact of its volatility, its role in the generation of financial sustainability, and the policy implications thereof.

B. Investment, enterprise and technology

114. Considering the rapid increase in investment flows worldwide and their emergence as one of the driving forces in the world economy, UNCTAD should continue to build on its comparative advantage in dealing with international investment issues. UNCTAD should also continue to address issues of technology and enterprise development, including their relation to investment. It should aim at improving the understanding of developing countries and economies in transition with respect to policy choices in these areas; strengthening these countries' national abilities to formulate and implement policies, measures and action programmes in these areas; and promoting understanding of emerging issues, including the role of international arrangements, with a view to strengthening their ability to participate in discussions and negotiations. Particular account should be taken of the need to encourage cooperation among developing countries.

(i) Improving the understanding of the role of FDI, technological capacity-building and enterprise internationalization

115. In the area of investment, UNCTAD should:

- Collect and analyse data and conduct policy-oriented research on investment issues related to development, including on the interaction of FDI and domestic investment and the interrelationship between FDI and trade. In particular, it should conduct such research on the impact of FDI on industrialization, local entrepreneurship and the development of supply capacity generally; the role of FDI in resource mobilization, infrastructure development, maintaining environmental sustainability, export capacity building, and human resource development, keeping in view the importance of linkages and interaction between foreign and domestic firms (including SMEs);

- Undertake policy-oriented research on issues related to attracting, and benefiting from, international investment, including the determinants of FDI; policy, legal and regulatory frameworks and best practices conducive to the development of the private sector and favourable to FDI and domestic investment, including investment in infrastructure, and the development of local expertise as well as regional networks; policies aimed at maximizing the positive and minimizing the possible negative impact of international investment; and export-oriented FDI;

- Examine the use and effects, particularly on trade, of incentives to attract FDI with high technological content and export-capacity and promote linkages in the host market. The role of double taxation treaties in promoting technology transfer and diffusion through FDI needs further exploration.

116. In the area of technology, UNCTAD's analytical work should aim at drawing lessons from experiences with the transfer and diffusion of technology through FDI and other channels with a view towards supporting efforts made by developing countries to respond to technological and scientific changes and developing policy instruments for facilitating technology transfer. It should also seek to explore ways in which an environment conducive to the transfer and diffusion of knowledge can be fostered, as well as various modes and mechanisms of transfer and diffusion, including specific ways and means to facilitate access to environmentally sound technologies, taking fully into account the conclusions of the Rio Conference. Due attention should be paid to the Barbados Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States and to the mandate arising from the twenty-second special session of the United Nations General Assembly.

117. UNCTAD should analyse all aspects of existing international agreements relevant to transfer of technology. UNCTAD should take into account the work of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development in the areas of protection of biological resources and the impact of biotechnology on development.

118. UNCTAD should identify and disseminate information concerning existing home country measures that encourage transfer of technology in various modes to developing countries, in particular to the least developed countries.

119. In the area of enterprise development, UNCTAD should collect and analyse data on best national practices stimulating enterprise development and identify ways and means for developing countries' SMEs to meet international standards, as well as to access and benefit from new technologies through networking and partnering. Furthermore, it should analyse the links between SMEs and TNCs, identify mechanisms for financing SMEs, and enhance the capacity and participation of women entrepreneurs in terms of running small and medium-sized enterprises, thus contributing to poverty alleviation.

120. UNCTAD should also examine the impact of regional integration on: (a) the development of competitive capacities of enterprises and, in particular, the development and strengthening of competitive chains for the production of goods and services, as well as the identification and strengthening of flanking support measures for these chains; (b) FDI flows; and (c) investment agreements.

121. UNCTAD should conduct policy-oriented research on the implications of FDI, technological capacity-building and enterprise internationalization for competition and competitiveness. In particular, UNCTAD should examine the consequences of developments such as cooperation among firms in research and development (e.g. strategic alliances). It should also provide a forum for debate at the intergovernmental and at the expert level on these issues.

122. UNCTAD should promote increased transparency and financial disclosure by encouraging the use of internationally recognized accounting, reporting and auditing standards and improved corporate governance. UNCTAD should develop appropriate technical cooperation programmes in this field.

*(ii) **Strengthening developing countries' national ability to formulate and implement policies to attract and benefit from FDI, strengthen technological capacities and foster the development of enterprises***

123. In the area of investment, UNCTAD should support efforts by developing countries in attracting investment flows, in particular FDI, and in maximizing their net benefit, by helping them to formulate and implement policies and set up appropriate regulatory frameworks. Investment policy reviews can play a special role in this connection. UNCTAD should formulate special programmes to assist African and least developed countries. UNCTAD should also study existing home country measures that could be considered in programmes to support the efforts of developing countries to attract FDI and benefit from it.

124. In the area of technological capacities and enterprise development, UNCTAD should further support efforts by countries in developing an integrated approach to investment, technology and enterprise development, and strengthen the innovative capacity of enterprises through the implementation of national policy reviews, upon request; and it should assist them, through training and other technical cooperation activities, in the development of human resources required for formulating and implementing integrated investment, technology and enterprise internationalization policies at the national level.

125. UNCTAD should continue the Empretec Programme to assist countries to build up entrepreneurial capabilities and innovative and competitive SMEs and to help resolve problems of access to markets, business skills, finance and technology.

*(iii) **Improving understanding of emerging issues, including the role of international arrangements for the purpose of attracting and benefiting from FDI, enhancing technological capacity and promoting enterprise development in a globalizing world economy***

126. In the area of investment, UNCTAD should help strengthen understanding of the relationship between trade and investment, as well as of the role of international investment arrangements in the development process and of how such arrangements could contribute to development, including through facilitation of technology and enterprise development. Areas of interest include bilateral investment treaties involving developing countries, the inclusion of investment matters in regional agreements, increased understanding of key concepts of treaties and the development dimension of international investment agreements.

127. In order to enrich international discussions with the concrete experience of countries and regions, for example the partnership and dialogue between the private and public sectors and to promote the sharing and diffusion of international practice among policy-makers at the national level, UNCTAD should do analytical work and provide a forum for exchange of experiences on the formulation of policies favourable to the development of the private sector at local, national and regional levels and on investment environments through investment policy reviews, prepared at the request of the interested countries.

128. In the area of transfer of technology, UNCTAD should examine and disseminate widely information on best practices for access to technology.

C. International trade

129. UNCTAD's major objective in the area of international trade should continue to be to assist developing countries to integrate themselves more fully into, and derive benefits from, the international trading system. The focus of UNCTAD's work should aim at policy analysis and consensus building to identify more clearly the parameters of the development dimensions of the multilateral trading system. Another objective of UNCTAD should be to support capacity building in developing countries so as to progressively enable these countries to become effective players in the multilateral trading system in terms of deriving full benefits from trade liberalization, enjoying their multilateral rights and complying with their multilateral obligations. UNCTAD should also identify, on the basis of research and empirical evidence and with development impact assessment, what the implications are of existing and emerging multilateral trade rules for the development prospects of developing countries.

130. Important elements of UNCTAD's work should be geared to supporting intergovernmental consensus in the area of trade by facilitating the setting-out of a positive agenda for developing countries in future trade negotiations. This includes identifying which international trade policy tools are more supportive of development efforts in a globalized world. UNCTAD should also identify and suggest ways and means to address the constraints that developing countries face in deriving full benefits from the trading system, including those relating to their structural impediments, limited domestic policy options and financial vulnerability, as well as those following from problems and imbalances identified by developing countries in the implementation of agreements. The role of regional cooperation and integration arrangements, their development potential and their relation to the multilateral trading system should be explored.

131. UNCTAD should assist developing countries and countries with economies in transition in their efforts to identify trade policy tools to make their development policy more effective, bearing in mind their general problems related to market access, insufficient institutional capacity and insufficient supply capacity in export-oriented areas, as well as lack of skilled human resources. It should provide advice in these areas to countries with economies in

transition negotiating accession to WTO. It should identify ways and means to expand trade between countries with economies in transition and developing countries.

(i) Market access

132. UNCTAD's work should relate first to analysis and, where appropriate, on the basis of the analysis, contribute to consensus-building on:

- Reducing tariff and non-tariff barriers in export sectors of interest to developing countries, particularly in developed country markets;

- Maintaining and further improving the level of tariff-free or reduced-tariff access to markets through national GSP schemes for all beneficiaries.

- Maximizing market access benefits for the least developed countries, for example by developed countries granting duty-free and quota-free treatment for essentially all products originating in LDCs, and the contribution to improved market access for LDCs' exports by other developing countries, combined with a multilateral and bilateral programme to upgrade LDCs' production and export capacities and capabilities.

- Impact of anti-dumping and countervailing duties actions.

(ii) Trade in agriculture

133. UNCTAD should assist developing countries in multilateral negotiations on agriculture. This should be supported by analytical work and technical assistance to developing countries on: (i) ways and means to improve market access for their agricultural products; (ii) domestic support, including in the context of their efforts to increase productivity and food security; and (iii) export subsidies and other kinds of export support. In this context, UNCTAD should analyse the impact on all developing countries of the reform process, as foreseen in Article 20 of the WTO Agreement on Agriculture, with attention being paid to the concerns of LDCs and net food-importing developing countries. In its analytical work, UNCTAD should also address the needs of small island developing economies. UNCTAD should further undertake analytical work on major agricultural concerns of developing countries.

(iii) Trade in services

134. UNCTAD should help developing countries in identifying:

- The priority sectors where early trade liberalization should take place;

- The main trade barriers that developing countries face in those services sectors, especially those which limit developing country ability to export their services;

- The preconditions, at the domestic level, which are necessary for developing countries to benefit from trade liberalization in the services sector in general. Attention should be paid to the opportunities offered to developing countries by opening the economic environment. This analysis should be supported, where necessary, by technical assistance to strengthen their domestic services capacity, and in particular through support in the area of policy and legislative adjustments.

135. In the area of electronic commerce, UNCTAD should contribute to the understanding of proposals made in the area of electronic commerce at the international level. Analytical work should be complemented by capacity-building activities aimed at enhancing the abilities of developing countries to benefit from electronic commerce and to participate actively in international discussions on this issue.

(iv) Support for developing countries in multilateral trade negotiations and in accession to WTO

136. UNCTAD should provide analytical and technical support to developing countries on the built-in agenda and in other possible areas of negotiations. It should actively assist them in their positive agenda by providing necessary analytical and technical inputs to their negotiating objectives, supporting their capacity-building process, and providing a forum for exchange of views and information. UNCTAD should continue to provide assistance to countries acceding to WTO in order to contribute to their early accession and to the universalization of the multilateral trading system.

(v) Regional integration and the multilateral trading system

137. UNCTAD's work in this area should include analysing and identifying options available to particular economic groupings and the simulation of the effects of regional trade agreements on the development of developing countries and on trade flows, taking into account the relationship of regional arrangements and groupings with the multilateral trading system.

138. UNCTAD should help developing countries in analysing and devising the most appropriate mechanisms in the light of WTO rules for:

- Identifying new strategies at the regional level to enhance the competitiveness of developing countries, including in agreements with developed countries, and to improve their capacity to promote their trade interests in global negotiations;

- Achieving a high level of tariff dismantling within the regional groupings;

- Increasing their market access prospects for their goods and services inside and outside the regional groupings;

- Developing favourable rules of origin.

(vi) Special and differential treatment

139. To provide developing countries with a justified degree of flexibility through special and differential treatment in order to enable them to take those measures essential to their development policies and reap the full benefits of the multilateral trading system, UNCTAD should examine means of linking special and differential treatment provisions to economic and development criteria and the potential impact thereof on their effectiveness in achieving the overall aim of gradual integration into the multilateral trading system. In doing so, attention should be paid to: (i) the experience accumulated in the implementation of the WTO Agreements; (ii) consideration of additional special and differential treatment provisions in order to foster the development of internationally competitive export supply capabilities and to encourage product diversification; (iii) the possibilities for linking further trade liberalization to promotion of transfer of technology; and (iv) identification of special and differential treatment measures in favour of LDCs.

(vii) Competition issues

140. UNCTAD should continue and expand its help to interested countries in developing their national regulatory and institutional framework in the area of competition law and policy.

141. UNCTAD's work in this area should, in cooperation with UNDP, the World Bank and other relevant organizations, strengthen the capacity of public institutions for competition and consumer protection in developing countries and help them to educate the public and representatives of the private sector in this field.

142. UNCTAD should continue to examine issues related to competition law and policy of particular relevance to development. It should prepare periodical reports on restraints in strategic sectors and their impact on developing countries and countries with economies in transition, particularly on their competitiveness. UNCTAD should study in depth the developmental impact of possible international agreements on competition.

143. UNCTAD should also further study, clarify and monitor, including through specific country and case studies, the relationship between competition and competitiveness as well as trade-related aspects of competition.

(viii) Strengthening supply capacities in export-oriented sectors of commodities

144. Given the importance of commodities to many developing countries for employment, income and export earnings, UNCTAD should enhance its support to developing countries in this area. UNCTAD's work should focus on:

- Identifying ways to improve the supply capacity of commodity-producing countries, as well as obstacles hampering the development of processing industries, and assisting commodity-dependent developing countries on how to fully exploit commodity diversification as a major potential avenue to industrialization;

- Identifying the changes that are taking place in the dynamics and structure of international commodity markets, in order to make commodity-dependent countries more able to formulate policy responses to critical new developments;

- Providing insights into the complexities of international commodity chains so that the enterprises of these countries can position themselves optimally, maximize retained value added and optimize the dynamic effects of linkages, technologies and upgrading;

- Assisting in increasing market transparency and information flows through, *inter alia*, collection and publication of relevant commodity information and data on a regular and frequent basis;

- Providing a forum where less efficient producers can meet with highly efficient ones to explore possibilities for cooperation and relocation of production;

- Assisting, in concert with other multilateral partners as appropriate, such as the World Bank, in the management of price risks by traders and producers, as well as in the utilization of structured finance instruments for the generation of additional resources which can be used for the development or diversification of the commodity sector;

- Providing technical assistance and policy advice on relevant mechanisms, including financial risk management instruments, to producers and users of oil and gas in developing countries, in particular in the context of implementing privatization and liberalization schemes, aimed at protecting Governments as well as private users and consumers from the risks of high price volatility;

- Close collaboration with the Common Fund for Commodities, putting to maximum advantage the existing complementarities.

(ix) Strengthening supply capacities in export-oriented sectors of manufactures and services

145. UNCTAD's work should focus on:

- Continuing to evaluate the opportunities for a dynamic development of export-oriented industries and services in developing countries, including LDCs; in particular, identifying services sectors of export interest to developing countries and ways to overcome infrastructure deficiencies hampering their development, including through the introduction of new methods of trade in services;

- Analysing ways for developing countries to improve their supply capacity in the area of trade in services through, *inter alia*, human resource development, institutional capacity-building, improved access to and use of new technologies, particularly in the informatics software development and audiovisual sectors, which use digitally based technology, and development of adequate legislation;

- Analysing possibilities for enhancing competitiveness of and market access for developing country exports of industrial products and services;

- Helping developing countries to shape strategies for their integration into regional and world markets as a major policy option for competitive industrial production and services.

(x) Trade and environment

146. UNCTAD's work, in cooperation with other relevant organizations, should focus on helping to ensure balance in the trade and environment debate by highlighting issues of concern to developing countries and strengthening the development dimension. This in turn would require special attention being paid to the following areas of work:

- Identifying policies to address major constraints faced by many developing countries in responding to environmental challenges, such as lack of technical, financial, institutional and supply capacities, taking into account the environmental and developmental needs and situations of each country;

- Enhancing understanding of the economic and social implications of trade measures for environmental purposes for countries at different levels of development, including the effects of environmental requirements on developing countries' exports;

- Identifying specific capacity-building needs of developing countries and promoting a broad programme of capacity-building on trade, environment and development.

147. UNCTAD should also, in full cooperation with other relevant organizations, in particular and where appropriate WIPO and WHO, promote analysis and consensus building with a view to identifying issues that could yield potential benefits to developing countries, including the link between public health and development. This should focus on:

- An examination of the economic and developmental implications of multilateral environment agreements and identification of ways to promote the effective implementation of measures to achieve global environmental objectives;

- Examining ways to promote the indigenous development and transfer of environmentally sound technologies to developing countries, including through the implementation of relevant provisions in the TRIPS Agreement, for example articles 7 and 66.2 of that Agreement, in order to contribute to the promotion of technological innovation and to the transfer and dissemination of technology to the mutual advantage of producers and users of technological knowledge in a manner conducive to social and economic welfare and to a balance of rights and obligations;

- Taking into account the objectives and provisions of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the TRIPS Agreement, studying ways to protect traditional knowledge, innovations and practices of local and indigenous communities and enhance cooperation on research and development on technologies associated with the sustainable use of biological resources;

- Examining the potential trade and developmental effects and opportunities of environmental measures, taking into account the concerns of developing countries, particularly as regards potential effects on small and medium-sized enterprises;

- Supporting developing countries' efforts in promoting production of and trading opportunities for environmentally preferable products;

- Ways to promote and support investment and trade contributing to economic growth and sustainable development, *inter alia* in biological resources, such as the Biotrade Initiative;

- Examining ways and means to address developing country concerns in the area of exports of domestically prohibited goods;

- Strengthening the importance of adequately valuing natural resources with a view to enhancing the competitiveness of goods and services generated by those resources;

- Helping developing countries in enhancing understanding of the trade, environmental, including biodiversity, and developmental implications of biotechnologies;

- Supporting R&D capacity-building and legal and regulatory systems, in support of the work programme of the United Nations Commission on Science and Technology for Development;

- Continuing its work as task manager on trade, environment and sustainable development for the United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development.

D. Service infrastructure for development and trade efficiency and human resources development

148. UNCTAD should continue to assist developing countries and countries in transition in building up a service infrastructure in the areas of customs, transportation, banking, insurance and tourism with a view to improving their competitiveness in the international market place.

149. UNCTAD's work programme, with regard to both its analytical activities and technical cooperation, should include:

- Trade facilitation, the use of information technology in trade-related activities and, in particular, the development-related dimension of electronic commerce;

- Institutional reforms and legislative adjustments where appropriate, capacity-building and training activities supporting the build-up of an efficient services infrastructure for trade;

- The possible gains in efficiency in the build-up of services infrastructure for trade when they are provided at regional level;
- LDCs' specific problems, such as access to information technology and build-up of human resource capacity to utilize information technology and thereby participate in the information society.

(i) Trade and transport facilitation

150. UNCTAD'S work should focus on its comparative advantage in the fields of the applied economics of transport, trade facilitation and multimodal transport. UNCTAD must treat problems relating to the provision of, and access to, international transport services as an integral part of international support measures designed to enable the trade and industry of developing countries and particularly the least developed, land-locked and transit developing countries to participate more effectively in the globalization processes.

151. The work undertaken by UNCTAD in recent years in the field of management information systems and logistics as applied to the transport sector, such as the Advance Cargo Information System (ACIS), should continue and be strengthened. UNCTAD's programmes should pay special attention to the particular difficulties encountered by land-locked developing countries and transit developing countries.

152. In close cooperation with other relevant international organizations, UNCTAD should continue to undertake studies on the implementation of multimodal transport rules.

(ii) Customs

153. UNCTAD's programme of customs reform and automation, ASYCUDA, should continue to support the efforts of developing countries. UNCTAD should ensure that the most up-to-date data and effective information technologies are taken into account in the implementation of customs reform and automation projects. In this regard, special attention should be given to capacity-building in developing countries in order to facilitate compliance with standards requirements as set out in multilateral agreements like the WTO Customs Valuation Agreement.

(iii) Banking and insurance

154. UNCTAD should carry out analytical and technical assistance work to help regulators and relevant industry associations in upgrading the regulatory and institutional framework for this sector to adapt to international and best practices and to requirements under WTO/GATS.

(iv) Services for micro-enterprises

155. UNCTAD should continue its analytical and technical assistance work on the development of financial infrastructures and services addressing the needs of micro-enterprise, including in the fields of micro credit, insurance and saving.

(v) Electronic commerce

156. UNCTAD should contribute to informing international debates on the developmental impact of global information networks addressing, in particular, developing countries' specific problems, such as access to information technology, infrastructure constraints and build-up of human resource capacity. Particular importance should be given to their impact on the enterprise sector, including corporate structures and the role of SMEs in global competition, as well as international trade and investment flows. UNCTAD should continue to organize seminars, workshops, and other means of exchanging information on topics in this area.

157. Policy-oriented analytical work should be carried out by UNCTAD on the implications for developing countries of the economic, social and legal aspects of electronic commerce from a development perspective, with analytical work on legal aspects being carried out in close

cooperation with UNCITRAL, in particular issues of concern in transport and other related service sectors. UNCTAD should also analyse basic statistical data on electronic commerce flows.

158. UNCTAD shall fully implement the Trade Point Programme strategy, as proposed by the secretariat in document TD/B/WP/120, including the transfer of the electronic trading opportunities system to a non-profit entity as soon as possible.

(v) Human resources development

159. Given the vital importance of national capacity-building in developing countries, including the gender dimension, UNCTAD should continue its activities within its field of competence in support of human resources development. UNCTAD should play a role in supporting networks with universities and government institutions and in providing information to enterprises and Governments regarding: (a) the linkages between human resource development (HRD) activities, particularly training, and the performance of enterprises; (b) long-term planning for HRD activities, coordination of training activities and collaboration or development of partnerships between enterprises; (c) formulation of HRD policies and strategies to be followed by developing countries.

160. In cooperation with other international organizations, UNCTAD has done pioneering work to enhance standards and establish networks for the conduct of training adapted to development needs. Its commercial diplomacy, TRAINMAR and TRAINFORTRADE programmes have a major potential to help countries cooperate to meet developmental needs through the conduct of their own training in the field of trade-supporting services. Continuation of these programmes is essential for the networks to thrive, but the networks will also be a source of training in all areas where UNCTAD is working for development.

E. Least developed countries, land-locked developing countries, and small island developing States

161. UNCTAD serves as the United Nations focal point for the least developed countries through monitoring of the implementation of the Programme of Action for the LDCs for the 1990s. In addition to the least developed countries, it also addresses the needs of land-locked, transit and small island developing countries. UNCTAD continues to facilitate the implementation of the Global Framework for Transit Transport Cooperation between Land-Locked and Transit Developing Countries and the Donor Community. The UNCTAD secretariat should make every effort to improve communication with countries without representation in Geneva.

162. In its work on LDCs, UNCTAD is responsible for coordinating and preparing the Third United Nations Conference on LDCs and its follow-up, monitoring and analysing the various major international initiatives as they relate to LDCs, assisting LDCs in understanding the key issues in WTO negotiations, following up the Integrated Framework for Trade-related Technical Assistance, as well as other technical assistance initiatives, and implementing and following up General

Assembly resolutions. The successful implementation of the activities related to LDCs and mandates concerning land-locked and small island developing countries will require provision of sufficient staff and adequate resources for the Office of the Special Co-ordinator for the Least Developed, Land-locked and Island Developing Countries. It is the responsibility of all divisions of the UNCTAD secretariat to ascertain that UNCTAD's activities take the needs of LDCs into account.

163. Implementation of activities in favour of LDCs requires regular replenishment of the existing Trust Fund for LDCs, as well as the provision of contributions in kind. Increased contributions are particularly required in the light of UNCTAD's role in the implementation of the outcome of the High-Level Meeting on Integrated Initiatives for the LDCs' Trade Development and its Integrated Framework: UNCTAD is called upon to prepare an integrated programme of action for technical assistance for LDCs, and undertake a realistic assessment of resource requirements for its implementation.

F. Technical cooperation

164. Technical cooperation is one of the three main functions of UNCTAD. It represents the practical manifestation of the organization's commitment to national, regional and global development. The effectiveness and relevance of UNCTAD's technical cooperation depend on its integration with the secretariat's policy analysis and the work of the intergovernmental machinery. The basic parameters for this approach were established by UNCTAD IX and subsequently spelt out in the UNCTAD Technical Cooperation Strategy adopted by the Trade and Development Board in June 1997. The full realization of effective interrelationships among the three basic functions of UNCTAD requires greater efforts in the area of technical cooperation, as follows:

(i) Measures are required to ensure concentration of effort on technical cooperation that effectively exploits the interrelationship between policy analysis, intergovernmental deliberations and operational activities. UNCTAD's approach to technical cooperation should be more consolidated, well focused and streamlined. Priority should be given to those activities which enhance the capacity of beneficiary countries for their effective participation in international trading system. Activities should be demand-driven, based on recipient countries needs and have as their ultimate objective raising the standards of living of people in developing countries through, strengthening of capacity-building for *inter alia*, trade, investment and development;

(ii) In that regard, UNCTAD's technical cooperation should focus on:

(a) Capacity-building to assist developing countries integrate into the global economy in a manner consistent with their development needs;

(b) Preparations for multilateral negotiations on trade and the implementation of the results thereof; and

(c) Support for cooperation among developing countries at the subregional, regional and interregional levels;

(iii) In accordance with the agreement reached at UNCTAD IX, UNCTAD's technical assistance should be directed towards developing countries with the greatest need. LDCs should have priority in the assistance provided by UNCTAD. The effectiveness and impact of UNCTAD's technical cooperation should be strengthened as an essential complement to the institution's policy-oriented analytical and deliberative work. Specific needs of small island developing States, landlocked and transit developing countries and certain developing countries with structurally weak and small vulnerable economies should be addressed. UNCTAD should continue to provide technical assistance to economies in transition;

(iv) Continuous support from UNDP and other multilateral funding institutions, contributions from bilateral donors, the regular budget and other possible sources of finance, while ensuring availability and predictability of financial resources for UNCTAD's technical cooperation, will facilitate the planning and execution of operational programmes and promote a greater degree of coherence in activities. Donors are invited to continue and, if possible, increase financing for technical assistance programmes formulated by UNCTAD. UNCTAD's technical cooperation activities should be planned and executed in the light of the availability of financial resources and contributions;

(v) With regard to cooperation with other international organizations, the UNCTAD secretariat should develop practical modalities for its effective contribution to the preparation of the United Nations Development Assistance Framework and the Common Country Assessment so as to ensure that it reflects the technical assistance provided by UNCTAD in the field of trade and development. UNCTAD should also expand on the coordination experiences gained through the Joint Integrated Technical Assistance Programme (JITAP/UNCTAD/WTO/ITC) and the Integrated Framework for Trade-related Technical Assistance for the LDCs;

(vi) Internal coordination of technical cooperation activities should be enhanced, *inter alia*, through exercise of a greater degree of central oversight and the submission to member States of an annual indicative plan of technical cooperation programmes. Enhanced internal coordination will also facilitate coordination among donors for achieving coherence and complementarity of actions in support for capacity building. In this regard, the principles of coordination among donors and full ownership by beneficiary countries could improve technical cooperation activities;

(vii) Consideration should be given by the appropriate body to the need for UNCTAD to focus its technical cooperation activities;

(viii) Technical assistance programmes should be subject to cost-accounting, and ways and means should be found to introduce and improve mechanisms for the financial sustainability of certain programmes. The issue of the self-sustainability of ASYCUDA, DMFAS and ACIS should be considered further. The cost-effective delivery of programmes should be further enhanced, including through greater utilization of expertise and capacities of developing countries in the implementation of specific activities and by enhanced monitoring and evaluation of each project, in particular with reference to their development impact on national capacities of recipient countries. In this connection it is necessary to elaborate UNCTAD's system of internal and external evaluation;

(ix) Matching between non-profit and private sector entities, the entry into public-private sector partnership activities and subsequent activities should take place only within the framework of United Nations rules and regulations. In this respect, the secretariat is encouraged to participate fully with other elements of the United Nations system in devising a set of guidelines and to report back to Member States on a regular basis on the progress of such discussions.

165. UNCTAD, in collaboration with WTO, ITC and the donor community, could consider the possibility of expanding the Joint Integrated Technical Assistance Programme (JITAP/UNCTAD/WTO /ITC) to include more African countries.

166. UNCTAD's existing capacity-building programme should be strengthened. This would enable officials and other individuals from developing countries and some interested countries with economies in transition to become better informed, through regular training courses in cooperation with the United Nations Staff College, of key issues on the international economic agenda, in particular with development dimensions within UNCTAD's field of competence. These courses would draw on the expertise and policy analysis work of the UNCTAD secretariat, with the support of an advisory body to be established by the Trade and Development Board. In course delivery, cooperation and coordination would be assured with relevant research and academic institutions and with other relevant international organizations, taking into consideration the commitment of UNCTAD to the Integrated Framework for Trade-related Technical Assistance for the LDCs. The organization of the courses should be financed from UNCTAD's existing regular budget resources and available extra-budgetary resources. The Secretary-General of UNCTAD is invited to submit detailed costed proposals to the Working Party on the Medium-term Plan and the Programme Budget.

167. The continuation of the assistance that the UNCTAD secretariat provides to the Palestinian people is welcome, and should be intensified.

168. In its technical cooperation in the field of debt, UNCTAD should undertake technical assistance on debt management, through its DMFAS Programme, and strengthen the latter's links to the work of the World Bank, notably through the World Bank Debt Sustainability Module.

169. In its activities in the field of portfolio investment, UNCTAD should, in close cooperation with other international and regional institutions, continue its current technical cooperation programme on capital market development to strengthen the domestic financial infrastructure, with a view to assisting developing countries to mobilize stable sources of finance.

G. Intergovernmental machinery

170. The Conference welcomes the document prepared by the UNCTAD secretariat entitled "Improving the functioning and the structure of the intergovernmental machinery of UNCTAD" and believes that the proposals contained in this document, *inter alia* on the linkages between expert meetings and commissions, should be given full consideration by a specially convened executive session of the Trade and Development Board as soon as possible after UNCTAD X and prior to Commissions' sessions.

H. Implementation

171. In order to implement the activities outlined in the operational paragraphs of this Plan of Action in an efficient and timely manner, they should be presented, in accordance with United Nations rules and practices, as a work programme with clearly defined objectives and outputs for the biennium, including timeframes and expected outcomes. The Secretary-General of UNCTAD should present the work programme to member States for discussion at the first meeting of the Working Party on the Medium-term Plan and the Programme Budget and the subsequent executive session of the Trade and Development Board.

Part III

OTHER ACTION BY THE CONFERENCE

A. Conference Statement

174 (X) Expression of appreciation to His Majesty the King of Thailand

We gathered here in Thailand to discuss globalization and development in all their complexities. This was highly appropriate, since the region recently had direct first-hand experience of the formidable challenges involved in coming to grips with our rapidly changing world. But, as we can all see, Thailand has found the inner strength to lift itself up and set out once again on the road to development. Of course, some of the consequences of the crisis are undoubtedly still being felt, but the worst has been left behind, and confidence in a better future has returned.

This remarkable resilience reflects the strength of the Thai nation. And that strength has been nurtured and developed by His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej, the King of Thailand. Through his caring leadership, His Majesty has earned the abiding love and profound respect of his people, and through his thinking he has laid the foundation for and inspired his country's development strategy. His Majesty's philosophy of a "sufficiency economy" now lies at the heart of Thailand's development thinking, and indeed it will serve as the blueprint for the country's next economic and social development plan.

The "sufficiency economy" philosophy centres on the concept of moderation and self-reliance. It sets out to shield the country from external shocks, and discourages exploitation of others. Its values include honesty and integrity. It seeks to achieve balance and justice.

In today's world, these ideas are key. If one thing has become clear at this Conference, it is that no country can stand alone. Globalization and interdependence mean that countries depend on each other and must help each other. And in such a world, moderation, balance, justice and integrity are among the principles that will form the backbone of our relations.

The Conference pays tribute to His Majesty the King of Thailand for his contribution to the cause of development. He has earned international recognition as the "Developer King". The experience of Thailand offers fundamental lessons to all of us and the Thai nation is living testimony to the efficacy of the King's actions and boundless compassion.

264th plenary meeting
19 February 2000

B. Resolutions

175 (X) EXPRESSION OF GRATITUDE TO THE GOVERNMENT AND PEOPLE OF THAILAND

The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development,

Meeting at its tenth session in Bangkok at the invitation of the Government of Thailand,

Deeply appreciative of the invitation to host the Conference and of the immense and successful efforts made by the Government and people of Thailand in the preparation and organization of the Conference,

Noting with satisfaction the efficiency and thoroughness of the services placed at the disposal of the Conference at the Queen Sirikit National Convention Center in Bangkok,

Noting also with gratitude the warm welcome and hospitality extended by the people of Thailand to all participants at the Conference,

1. *Recognizes with great satisfaction* the valuable contribution made by the host Government to the success of the Conference and to the creation of an international environment of mutual understanding and respect;

2. *Acknowledges with particular appreciation* the personal commitment of the President of the Conference to the work of the Conference;

3. *Expresses its sincere appreciation* to the Government and to the people of Thailand for the welcome and warm friendship accorded to the participants at the Conference;

4. *Requests* the President of the Conference to convey these sentiments to the Prime Minister of Thailand, and through him, to the people of Thailand; and

5. *Remains* determined to maintain the Spirit of Bangkok for more strengthened multilateral cooperation.

264th plenary meeting
19 February 2000

176 (X) CREDENTIALS OF REPRESENTATIVES TO THE TENTH SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE

The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development,

Approves the report of the Credentials Committee.

264th plenary meeting
19 February 2000

Part IV

STATEMENTS OF POSITION ON THE PLAN OF ACTION [1]

1. The representative of **Cuba** said that the last sentence of paragraph 53 of the Plan of Action (TD/386) did not reflect reality, since unilateral measures undoubtedly were causing economic damage to his country and were having a direct impact on its trade. The blockade that had been imposed by the United States on Cuba for more than 40 years had had and was still having a negative impact on the trade relations and development of the Cuban people. These unilateral measures, which were being applied to a developing country for political reasons, created an unacceptable precedent in international economic relations and undermined confidence in multilateral trade rules. They also represented a serious obstacle to the Cuban people's right to development, and they had been condemned by the General Assembly of the United Nations for eight years running. The issue at stake was that of putting an end to unilateral coercive measures aimed at starving into submission a people fighting for control over its own destiny.

2. The representative of **China** said that China supported cooperation activities between UNCTAD and other international organizations within their terms of reference. However, the relevant provisions laid down in resolution 54/198 on international trade and development adopted by the United Nations General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session should be respected and should guide those cooperation activities.

3. The representative of **India** said that, with regard to the treatment of the question of trade in agriculture in the Plan of Action (TD/386, para. 133), India had reservations and concerns about the last sentence in the paragraph. Of India's many development concerns, none was greater than the issue of rural economies, as two thirds of the population lived in rural areas. But it was out of a sense of solidarity with other developing countries, and in particular small island developing States, that his country had agreed to the text as adopted.

4. The representative of **Portugal**, speaking on behalf of the **European Union**, said that, in the second subparagraph of paragraph 110 of the Plan of Action, the last three lines relating to General Assembly resolution 54/249 and Africa reflected a proposal made by the European Union. The intention behind the proposal had been to strengthen the programme for Africa, and any other interpretation, for example linking the idea to changes in the structure of the secretariat, would be contrary to the intention of the proposal.

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[1] These statements were delivered at the closing meeting of the Committee of the Whole on 18 February 2000, after the approval of the Plan of Action by the Committee.

5. The representative of the **Philippines** said that, with reference to paragraph 166 of the Plan of Action, his country fully supported the proposed regular courses on key economic issues to be offered in cooperation with the United Nations Staff College. It would be important for the College to procure the very best experts possible and the most appropriate course venues anywhere in the world. Priority should be given to courses that would enable developing countries to achieve just and fair trading rules, especially in the WTO, thus increasing the complementarity between UNCTAD and the WTO. Finally, the mix of developed and developing countries and the cooperative and open spirit demonstrated at UNCTAD X should be encouraged in the courses in question with a view to promoting global understanding.

6. The representative of **Switzerland** said that his country regarded the second subparagraph of paragraph 110 of the Plan of Action as a mandate to strengthen coordination of activities relating to Africa.

7. The representative of **Egypt**, speaking on behalf of the **African Group**, said her Group considered that the second subparagraph of paragraph 110 of the Plan of Action was an integral part of the Plan of Action and must be implemented in accordance with General Assembly resolution 54/249 and the rules and regulations of the United Nations. She referred to what the Deputy Secretary-General of UNCTAD had stated, namely that the subparagraph in question would mean the addition of a sixth subprogramme to the UNCTAD programme of work. There had been no objection to that, and therefore the second subparagraph, which had been adjusted by consensus, must be implemented in its totality.

8. The representative of **Norway** said that his country endorsed the statement by the European Union.

9. The representative of **Consumers International**, referring to paragraph 170 of the Plan of Action, said that consideration should be given to convening an expert meeting on consumer policy.

Part V

ORGANIZATIONAL AND PROCEDURAL MATTERS

A. Opening of the Conference

(Agenda item 1)

1. The tenth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development was declared open on 12 February 2000 by H.E. Mr. Alec Erwin, Minister of Trade and Industry (South Africa), President of the ninth session of the Conference.

B. Election of the President

(Agenda item 2)

2. At its 252nd (opening) meeting, on 12 February 2000, the Conference elected by acclamation as its President H.E. Dr. Supachai Panitchpakdi, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Commerce of Thailand.

C. Election of Vice-Presidents and the Rapporteur

(Agenda item 4)

3. At its 253rd meeting, the Conference elected H.E. Mr. Mohammad Nahavandian (Islamic Republic of Iran) as its Rapporteur.

4. At the same meeting, the Conference elected H.E. Mr. Philippe Petit (France) to serve as Chairman of the Committee of the Whole.

D. Bureau of the Conference

5. At its 253rd meeting, on 13 February 2000, the Conference decided that the composition of its Bureau should be based on the same geographical distribution as that of the Bureau at its eighth and ninth sessions, namely seven members from Africa, seven from Asia, seven from Latin America and the Caribbean, nine from Group B, four from Group D, and China.

6. The Conference decided that rule 58 of the rules of procedure concerning procedures for the election of members of the Bureau would be waived, and it declared the proposed list of officers elected.

7. The composition of the Bureau of the Conference at its tenth session was thus as follows:

President of the Conference:

Dr. Supachai Panitchpakdi	Thailand

Rapporteur:

Mr. Mohammad Nahavandian	Islamic Republic of Iran

Chairman of the Committee of the Whole:

Mr. Philippe Petit	France

Vice-Presidents:

Mr. Munir Akram	Pakistan
Mr. Kassahun Ayele	Ethiopia
Mr. Mustafa Bello	Nigeria
Mr. Yousef Boutros Ghali	Egypt
Mr. Charles Bridge	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
Mr. Rubén Calderon	Guatemala
Mr. Aleksandar Dimitrov	The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia
Mr. Mikhail E. Fradkov	Russian Federation
Mrs. Rosario Green Macias	Mexico
Mr. Laurent Guy	Switzerland
Mr. Koichi Haraguchi	Japan
Mrs. Lindiwe Hendricks	South Africa
Mr. Arne Kjellstrand	Sweden
Mr. Eduardo Latorre	Dominican Republic
Mr. Vlastimil Lorenz	Czech Republic
Mr. Alfred Mabika	Gabon
Mr. Mpho Meli Malie	Lesotho
Mr. Murasoli Maran	India
Mr. Ricardo Marquez	Peru
Mr. James Michel	United States of America
Mr. Brian E. Morrisey	Canada
Mr. Adolphe Nahayo	Burundi

Mr. Albert Oosterhoff	Netherlands
Mr. Ow Chin Hock	Singapore
Sr. Carlos Perez Del Castillo	Uruguay
Mr. Raimundo Perez Hernandes	Spain
Mr. Camilo Reyes Rodriguez	Colombia
Mr. Nacer Saidi	Lebanon
Mrs. Marjan Senjur	Slovenia
Mr. Domingo L. Siazon	Philippines
Mr. Bjorn Skogmo	Norway
Mrs. Ana Maria Solares Gaite	Bolivia
Mr. Zhou Keren	China

8. In accordance with past practice, the Conference decided that the coordinators of regional groups would be fully associated with the work of the Bureau.

E. Adoption of the agenda

(Agenda item 6)

9. At its 253rd meeting, on 13 February 2000, the Conference adopted the provisional agenda for its tenth session (TD/379) and the timetable. It was decided that items 1-7, 9 and 10 would be taken up by the Plenary and that item 8 would be allocated to the Committee of the Whole. (For the agenda, see annex I.)

F. Establishment of sessional bodies

(Agenda item 3)

10. At its 253rd meeting, in accordance with rule 62 of the rules of procedure of the Conference, it was decided to establish a Committee of the Whole to consider and report on the specific substantive item referred to it by the plenary.

G. Credentials of representatives to the Conference

(Agenda item 5)

(a) Appointment of the Credentials Committee

11. At its 253rd meeting on 13 February 2000, in accordance with rule 14 of the rules of procedure, the Conference established a Credentials Committee consisting of nine members appointed on the basis of a proposal of the President.

12. In accordance with past practice, this Committee was composed of the same nine States appointed by the General Assembly to serve on the Credentials Committee at its fifty-fourth session, namely Austria, Bolivia, China, Philippines, Russian Federation, South Africa, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, and United States of America.

13. Also in accordance with past practice, the Conference agreed that, should any of the above States not be represented at the Conference, the regional group concerned would be requested to nominate a replacement.

(b) Report of the Credentials Committee

14. At its 264th (closing) plenary meeting, on 19 February 2000, the Conference adopted resolution 176 (X), by which it approved the report of the Credentials Committee and thereby accepted the credentials of the representatives participating in the Conference.

H. Attendance

15. The following States members of UNCTAD were represented at the tenth session of the Conference: Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Cape Verde, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Pica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Gabon, Gambia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Haiti, Holy See, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Romania, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saint Lucia, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern

Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

16. Palestine attended the Conference as an observer.

17. The following intergovernmental organizations were represented at the Conference: African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States, Afro-Asian Rural Reconstruction Organization, Andean Community, Caribbean Community, Common Fund for Commodities, Commonwealth of Independent States, Commonwealth Secretariat, Community of Portuguese-speaking Countries, Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf, Economic Community of West African States, Entente Council, European Community, Institute for Leadership Development, Inter-American Development Bank, International Cocoa Organization, International Coffee Organization, International Federation of Pharmaceutical Manufacturers Associations, International Jute Organization, International Natural Rubber Organization, International Olive Oil Council, International Sugar Organization, Inter-Parliamentary Union, Islamic Development Bank, Latin American Economic System, Latin American Fisheries Development Organization, League of Arab States, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, Organization of African Unity, South Centre, Union of African Shippers' Councils.

18. The following specialized agencies were represented at the Conference: International Labour Organisation, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, International Civil Aviation Organization, World Health Organization, World Bank, International Monetary Fund, World Meteorological Organization, World Intellectual Property Organization, United Nations Industrial Development Organization, World Trade Organization.

19. The following United Nations bodies and programmes were represented at the Conference: Executive Office of the Secretary-General, Economic Commission for Europe, Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, Economic Commission for Africa, Economic and Social Commission for Western Africa, United Nations Environment Programme, United Nations Children's Fund, United Nations Development Programme, Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, United Nations International Drug Control Programme, United Nations University, United Nations Development Fund for Women, United Nations Framework Convention of the Climate Change, International Trade Centre UNCTAD/WTO.

20. The following non-governmental organizations were represented at the Conference:

General category: Action Aid, Association of World Council of Churches-related Development Organisations in Europe, Catholic Fund for Overseas Development, Consumers International, Environmental Development Action in the Third World, Focus on the Global South, International Coalition for Development Action, International Confederation of Free Trade Unions, International Cooperative and Mutual Insurance Federation, International Law

Association, International South Group Network, International Organization for Standardization, Oxfam International, Public Service International, Third World Network, World Association for Small and Medium Enterprises, World Confederation of Labour, World Economic Processing Zones Association, World Federation of United Nations Associations, World Veterans Foundation, World Vision International, World Wide Fund for Nature International.

Special category: International Air Transport Association, International Council of Nurses, International Federation of Intellectual Property Attorneys, International Multimodal Transport Association, International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources.

Without Status: Africa Tomorrow (Switzerland), African Rural and Crafts Products Promotion (Prodra Fairtrade) (Belgium), Agency for Promoting Sustainable Development Initiatives (ASDI) (Uganda), Alliance of Progressive Labor (APL) (Philippines), All India Association of Industries (AIAI) (India), Alternative Information and Development Centre (AIDC) (South Africa), Asia Pacific Secretariat for Consumerism, Advocacy, Research and Education (APSCARE) (Malaysia), Asian Cultural Forum of Development (ACFOD) (Thailand), Asian Disaster Preparedness Center, ATD Fourth World (ATD) (France), Australian Council for Overseas Aid (ACFOA) (Australia), Bangladesh Agricultural Farm Labour Federation (BAFLF), Bangladesh Environmental Lawyers Association (BELA), Caribbean Association for Feminist Research and Action (CAFRA), Caribbean Policy Development Centre (CPDC) (Barbados), Catholic Council of Thailand and Development (Caritas Thailand), Centre for Research on Multinational Corporations (SOMO) (Netherlands), Centre for Science and Environment (CSE), Citizen's Coalition for Economic Justice (CCEJ) (Republic of Korea), Coalition of African Organisations for Food Security and Sustainable Development (COASAD) (United Republic of Tanzania), Committee for Asian Women (CAW) (Thailand), Confederazione Italiana Sindacati Lavoratori (CISL) (Italy), Conseil des ONG d'appui au développement (CONGAD) (Senegal), Consumer Unity & Trust Society (CUTS) (India), Cuso Thailand (Thailand), Development Alternatives with Women for a New Era (DAWN) (Fiji), Development Network of Indigenous Voluntary Associations (DENIVA) (Uganda), Ecumenical Coalition for Economic Justice (ECEJ) (Canada), European Network on Debt and Development (EURODAD) (Belgium), Exchange and Cooperation Center for Latin America (ECCLA) (Switzerland), Foundation for International Environmental Law and Development (FIELD) (United Kingdom), Foundation for Women (FFW) (Thailand), Friends of the Earth - Ghana (FOE), Friends of the Earth International (FOEI) (Netherlands), Friends of the Earth (United States of America), Gene Campaign (India), Genetic Resources Action International (GRAIN) (Philippines), German NGO Forum Environment & Development (Forum U&E) (Germany), German Technical Cooperation (GTZ), Global Legislators Organization for a Balanced Environment (GLOBE) (Belgium), Greenpeace International, Groupe de Recherche pour une Stratégie Économique Alternative (GRESEA) (Belgium), Human Ecological Association Geea (HEAG) (Romania), Ibon Foundation (Philippines), Integrated Rural Development Foundation of the Philippines (IRDF) (Philippines), Interhemispheric Resource Center (IRC) (United States of America), International Centre for Enterprise and Sustainable Development (ICED) (Ghana), International Council on Social Welfare (ICSW) (United Kingdom), International Federation for

Alternative Trade (IFAT) (United Kingdom), International Network of Forests and Communities (INFC) (Canada), International NGO Forum on Indonesian Development (INFID), Jubilee 2000 (United Kingdom), Mexican Network for Action on Free Trade (Red Mexicana de Acción frente al Libre Comercio) (Mexico), Mwelekeo Wa NGO (MWENGO) (Zimbabwe), National Centre for Overseas Development (NCOS) (Belgium), National Federation of Youth Organisations in Bangladesh (NFYOB), New Economics Foundation (NEF) (United Kingdom), NGO Coordinating Committee on Development (NGO-COD) (Thailand), NGO Coordinating Committee on Rural Development in the Northeast (NGO CORD NE) (Thailand), Norwegian Forum for Environment and Development (FORUM), Norwegian People's Aid (NPA), Pacific Asia Resource Center (PARC) (Japan), Pax Romana, People's Decade For Human Rights Education (PDHRE) (United Kingdom), Pesticide Action Network (BIOTANI PAN) (Indonesia), Phillippine Rural Reconstruction Movement (PRRM), Policy Research for Development Alternative (UBINIG) (Bangladesh), Programme national de prévention, de lutte et d'assistance humanitaire aux victimes des catastrophes naturelles (Pronaplucan) (People's Republic of Congo), Rockefeller Foundation (United States of America), Rural Reconstruction Nepal (RRN) (Nepal), Service Centre for Development Cooperation (KEPA) (Finland), Socio-Economic Welfare Action for Women in Nepal (SEWA NEPAL) (Nepal), Solidar (Belgium), South African Arts International (SAAI) (United States of America), South Asia Watch On Trade, Economics and Environment (SAWTEE) (Nepal), Southeast Asian Council for Food Security and Fair Trade (SEA COUNCIL) (Malaysia), Taegu Round Korea Committee (Republic of Korea), Thai Development Support Committee (TDSC), Unione Italiana del Lavoro (UIL) (Italy), United Nations Environment and Development (UNED-United Kingdom), Vietnam Women's Union (VWU), Webforce International (WFI) (France), Women and Development (KULU) (Denmark), World Association of Investment Promotion Agencies (WAIPA), World Development Movement (WDM) (United Kingdom), World Information Transfer, Inc. (WIT) (United States of America)

I. Other business

(Agenda item 9)

(a) Periodic review by the Conference of the Lists of States contained in the annex to General Assembly resolution 1995 (XIX)

21. The Conference endorsed the request by Lithuania and Uzbekistan, as contained in document TD(X)/CRP.1, to be included in List D. It also authorized the Trade and Development Board to consult further on the placement of Estonia and of those other States which had not yet indicated their preference for inclusion or change in any of the Lists of States annexed to General Assembly resolution 1995 (XIX) and to report directly to the fifth-fifth session of the General Assembly concurrently with the presentation of the report of the Conference.

(b) Reports of the Trade and Development Board to the Conference

22. The Conference took note of the reports of the Trade and Development Board since the ninth session of the Conference.

(c) Designation of intergovernmental bodies for the purposes of rule 80 of the rules of procedure of the Conference

23. The Conference was informed that the secretariat had not received any new applications from intergovernmental bodies during the tenth session for designation for the purposes of paragraphs 18 and 19 of General Assembly resolution 1994 (XIX).

(d) Review of the calendar of meetings

24. The Conference instructed the Trade and Development Board, at its first executive session after the Conference, to approve a new calendar of meetings.

(e) Financial implications of the actions of the Conference

25. The Conference was informed that there were no additional financial implications from the decisions and actions of the Conference.

J. Adoption of the report of the Conference to the General Assembly

(Agenda item 10)

26. The Conference adopted its draft report, as contained in document TD/L.367.

K. Closure of the tenth session of the Conference

27. The tenth session of the Conference was declared closed at the end of the 264th plenary on 19 February 2000 by the President of the Conference.

Annex I

AGENDA FOR THE TENTH SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT

1. Opening of the Conference

2. Election of the President

3. Establishment of sessional bodies

4. Election of Vice-Presidents and the Rapporteur

5. Credentials of representatives to the Conference:
   (a) Appointment of the Credentials Committee
   (b) Report of the Credentials Committee

6. Adoption of the agenda

7. General debate

8. Developmental strategies in an increasingly interdependent world: applying the lessons of the past to make globalization an effective instrument for the development of all countries and all people

The developmental impact of globalization has been mixed: while some developing countries have benefited, others have not. Economic disparities among countries have not been reduced, with the result that a number of developing countries, particularly the LDCs, run the risk of further marginalization. Tensions and imbalances of a systemic nature have also arisen, and, given the high degree of interdependence in the world economy, the risk of financial upheavals spreading across other countries and regions has greatly increased. The international community should undertake a rigorous and balanced review of the policy and institutional framework for global trade and finance. In this context, the Conference provides member States with an opportunity to take stock of and review the major international economic initiatives and developments, in particular those that have taken place since UNCTAD IX. UNCTAD should consider the strategies and policies which are most likely to ensure the successful integration of all countries concerned, particularly the developing countries, into the world economy on an equitable basis and to avoid the risk of further marginalization.

9. Other business

(a) Periodic review by the Conference of the lists of States contained in the annex to General Assembly resolution 1995(XIX)
(b) Report of the Trade and Development Board to the Conference
(b) Designation of intergovernmental bodies for the purposes of rule 80 of the Conference rules of procedure
(d) Review of the calendar of meetings
(e) Financial implications of the actions of the Conference

10. Adoption of the report of the Conference to the General Assembly.

Annex II

MARRAKECH DECLARATION

Adopted at the Ninth Ministerial Meeting of the Group of 77 and China,
Held at Marrakech, Morocco, from 13 to 16 September 1999

1. We, the Ministers of the Group of 77 and China, met in Marrakech, Kingdom of Morocco, on 14-16 September 1999, in preparation for the tenth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD X) to be held in Bangkok, Thailand, from 12 to 19 February 2000. We express our deep appreciation to the Government and people of Morocco for hosting our Ministerial Meeting.

2. We affirm our commitment to promoting the interests of the developing countries in the various international forums, of which UNCTAD X will be the first major multilateral economic event of the new millennium.

3. We reaffirm the role of UNCTAD as the principal forum of the United Nations for the integrated treatment of development and interrelated issues in the areas of trade, money and finance, investment, technology, commodities, competition and sustainable development. The significance of this role has increased in an era characterized by the complex relationship between globalization and development and by the inherent imbalances in the structure of the international systems governing development, trade and finance. The recent monetary and financial crises have shown how contagious they can be in countries and regions, with far-reaching negative effects on trade and economic growth. The differential reach and impact of globalization has generated economic asymmetries, both at the global and national levels, and poses new challenges to our development aspirations. Many developing countries, particularly the LDCs and the structurally weak and vulnerable and small economies, have faced difficulties in their efforts to integrate effectively into the world economy, and have suffered the consequences of globalization.

4. We consider UNCTAD X, therefore, an occasion to review and reinvigorate international economic cooperation with a view to enhancing the development of developing countries and to providing fresh orientations for a development paradigm consistent with the exigencies of the new millennium. Globalization should be a powerful and dynamic force for strengthening cooperation and accelerating growth and development. It presents opportunities, as well as risks and challenges. Globalization is a process which can be uneven and unpredictable, but if it is properly harnessed and managed, the foundations for enduring and equitable growth at the international and national levels can be laid. National efforts need to be complemented by intensified international cooperation in order to reverse the marginalization

and manage the risks, overcome the challenges and seize the opportunities created by globalization.

5. We call on the international community to consider a new approach to international development cooperation based on growth, stability and equity with the full participation and integration of developing countries in the globalizing world economy. The success of our national efforts requires supportive international frameworks, premised on a new development policy consensus which incorporates lessons learned from recent experience. This new policy should aim at the creation of more equitable and effective international economic structures in finance, trade and transfer of technology, as well as address the endemic problems of debt and transfer of resources, financial vulnerability, declining terms of trade in primary commodities, and restricted access to developed country markets. To this end, there is a need for greater coherence in global economic policy-making and more participatory decision-making. There is also a need for greater coordination, coherence and concerted action among international institutions to promote growth and development in developing countries.

6. Solidarity in action is needed to eliminate poverty and to avoid the marginalization of a large part of the world's population, especially women and children and other vulnerable groups, and to ensure equal opportunities for all. In this respect, it is necessary to implement fully and expeditiously the agreed commitments and outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits of the 1990s.

7. The smooth functioning of the international financial markets is a key factor for the external financing of our countries. The influx of foreign capital stimulates economic activity and complements domestic investment. The Asian financial crisis has highlighted the deficiencies of the existing international system. These deficiencies require a vigorous international response aimed at establishing a new international financial architecture. UNCTAD should contribute, in close consultation and cooperation with other competent entities, with proposals that guarantee the full participation of the developing countries. These proposals should include, among other aspects, reforms of the monitoring and regulation systems, improved response capabilities for dealing with the emergence and spread of financial crises, and should give the developing countries greater flexibility and autonomy in the management of capital flow policies. The discussions on the reform of the global financial architecture should place more emphasis on financing for development, in addition to greater financial stability. It is also important that these reforms should include greater participation by the developing countries in the decision-making processes of the international financial institutions, consistent with the growing weight of these countries in international trade and investment flows and the significant impact the reforms will have on them.

8. We express grave concern over the decline in levels of ODA to less than one-third of the internationally agreed target of 0.7 per cent of GNP of donor countries. The budget constraints of the countries of the Development Assistance Committee (DAC) can no longer be advanced as a reason for such a dramatic decline in ODA, as many developed countries have reduced budget

deficits or enjoy unprecedented surpluses. This trend in ODA flows should be reversed as a matter or urgency. We reiterate that the agreed principle of non-conditionality should be followed when development assistance is provided.

9. The burden of external debt continues to be one of the main obstacles to the achievement of the social and economic development objectives of the developing countries. The heavy debt of the HIPCs, the majority of which are also LDCs, continues to be a cause for great concern. Current conditions make it necessary for a high percentage of the gross domestic product to be devoted to debt-service payment, with the consequent risks for social and political stability. UNCTAD should continue to study and propose strategies with a view to arriving at a lasting solution to the problem of the external debt of the developing countries, which also covers the elimination of the structural causes of indebtedness. These proposals should comprise various types of solution which take into account the payment capacity of each country.

10. We welcome the recent initiative on debt reduction undertaken in the context of the G-7 Cologne Summit; it needs to be implemented speedily, from additional resources, to give real hope to the world's poorest countries. However, the new initiative may prove to be insufficient to support globally agreed targets for poverty reduction by the year 2015. We express concern that relief is still attached to performance under the Enhanced Structural Adjustment Facility (ESAF). Such reform programmes should be designed and developed with a view to enhancing economic development and poverty reduction. The Cologne initiative should be flexibly interpreted by the international financial institutions to the full benefit of all debtors without discrimination, and appropriate resources should be devoted to reduce considerably the stock of debt and its servicing, while bearing in mind that debt relief measures should safeguard social, economic and political stability in developing countries. Furthermore, the debt problems of middle-income countries need to be addressed, through *inter alia* the expanded use of debt swaps and conversion and more generous refinancing terms.

11. We see the liberalization of international trade under WTO rules as a powerful and dynamic force for accelerating growth and development. We are strongly committed to persevering in the pursuit of liberal and open trade policies which integrate the development dimension. The challenge for the Third WTO Ministerial Conference is to make resolute progress along the path towards an open international trading system whose benefits are equitably distributed.

12. We note with great concern, however, that the benefits of the existing multilateral trading system continue to elude developing countries. Progress towards full liberalization in sectors of particular interest to them is lagging behind, and significant imbalances between rights and obligations exist in multilateral trade agreements (MTAs), as well as in conditions of market access. The persistence of these anomalies could erode the confidence of developing countries in the multilateral trading system and strengthen the hand of those who would wish to retreat into misguided protectionist policies and approaches.

13. We therefore attach utmost importance to addressing the issues and difficulties faced by developing countries that have arisen in the course of the implementation of the WTO MTAs. In this way developing countries can achieve a share in the growth of international trade commensurate with their economic development needs. The non-realization of benefits by many developing countries in areas of interest to them has resulted from the failure of major trading partners to fully and faithfully meet their obligations in these areas, particularly textiles and clothing. We therefore urge that the question of the implementation of Marrakech Agreements and Decisions be addressed and resolved at Seattle by the Third Ministerial Conference of the WTO.

14. In particular, the special and differential provisions in the WTO MTAs, many of a "best endeavour" nature, which have largely remained unimplemented, must be operationalized if the developing countries are to derive the expected benefits.

15. We believe that the negotiations provided for under the "Built-in Agenda" should be launched without delay responding to the priorities of developing countries:

- In agriculture, the objective should be to incorporate the sector within normal WTO rules, addressing the particular problems of predominantly agrarian and small island developing economies and net food-importing developing countries.

- Negotiations on trade in services should be carried out within the existing architecture of GATS and aim at the liberalization of sectors of special interest to developing countries and the movement of natural persons, while taking account of the impact of electronic commerce.

- The mandated reviews under the WTO MTAs ought to redress imbalances and to ensure that provisions in favour of developing countries are effectively implemented.

16. We call upon developed countries to demonstrate a firm and unequivocal commitment to opening their markets to the exports of developing countries, and to provide duty free and quota free access for the exports of the least developed countries. This should not affect WTO members' existing commitments relating to preferential schemes. Any future negotiations should address the elimination of tariff peaks and tariff escalation and should introduce further disciplines to prevent the abuse of measures such as antidumping, countervailing duties and safeguard actions, sanitary and phytosanitary regulations and technical barriers to trade, as well as to prevent the apparent revival of the use of voluntary export restraints. The work programme on the harmonization of non-preferential rules of origin should be achieved rapidly, to attain simplified, harmonized and more transparent rules.

17. We will collectively pursue a positive agenda for future multilateral trade negotiations which should also pay particular attention to such issues as transfer of technology, appropriate safeguards for developing countries, credit for autonomous liberalization, export finance,

commodity markets and the integration of the developing countries into the multilateral trading system on equitable terms. These negotiations should make operational the provisions under the TRIPs Agreement relating to the transfer of technology, to the mutual advantage of producers and users of technological knowledge and seek mechanisms for a balanced protection of biological resources and disciplines to protect traditional knowledge; enable developing countries under the TRIMs Agreement and the Agreement on Subsidies and Countervailing Measures to use measures necessary to implement their policies for development and export diversification and upgrading.

18. The Singapore Ministerial Declaration confirmed that ILO is the competent body to set and deal with all issues relating to labour standards. We therefore firmly oppose any linkage between trade and labour standards. We are also against the use of environmental standards as a new form of protectionism. We believe that issues relating to such standards should be dealt with by the competent international organizations and not by the WTO.

19. We are convinced of the need for differential and more favourable treatment of developing countries. This includes assistance to developing countries to help overcome transitional costs and to allow time for achieving development goals and enhancing competitiveness. The concept of special and differential treatment should be reviewed and strengthened to take account of the changing realities of world trade and of globalized production, and must be accompanied by capacity-building, enhanced market access and measures taken by industrialized countries to encourage their enterprises and institutions to transfer technology and know-how and invest in developing countries.

20. Eliminating trade barriers will not be enough to accelerate the integration of developing countries into the multilateral trading system. We therefore call upon the international community to expand technical cooperation and capacity-building programmes, and to provide support for overcoming supply-side deficiencies and improving the trade infrastructure in developing countries, particularly the LDCs and small economies. There is a need to strengthen their export sectors and stimulate the positive contribution which the commodity sector can make to development through diversification. Implementation of activities within the integrated framework for trade-related technical assistance endorsed by the 1997 WTO high-level meeting on LDCs' trade development needs to be accelerated, and we call on our development partners to provide the necessary resources for this objective.

21. Further, we call on the international community to give serious consideration to the proposals adopted by the LDCs' Coordinating Workshop convened in South Africa in June 1999.

22. We note the importance for all countries of consistency between national trade policies and the multilateral trade agreements. In this regard, we express our concern at:

- the continuing use of coercive economic measures against developing countries, through, *inter alia*, unilateral economic and trade sanctions which are in contradiction with international law, in particular new attempts aimed at extraterritorial application of domestic law, which constitute a violation of the United Nations Charter and of WTO rules; and that

- the preferential trade access granted to some of our countries continues to be tied to conditions not related to trade. We believe that these harmful practices, which conflict with WTO rules, should be eliminated.

23. The universality of the World Trade Organization should be achieved as soon as possible in order to strengthen the multilateral trading system. We strongly believe that appropriate assistance should be made available to developing countries seeking accession. They should be offered terms that do neither exceed nor are unrelated to the commitments of developing country and LDC members of WTO. We urge that all WTO members refrain from placing excessive or onerous demands on applications from developing countries. Therefore, there is a need for a transparent, streamlined and accelerated accession process that is in keeping with WTO rules and disciplines.

24. We recognize the importance of regional and subregional integration. Such arrangements facilitate trade and investment flows, economies of scale, economic liberalization and the integration of their members into the system of international economic relations within a framework of open regionalism, enabling progress towards a more open multilateral system.

25. We attach importance to achieving greater complementarity in international economic policy making. The international institutions involved should pursue mutually supportive policies which would enable developing countries derive maximum benefit from the Multilateral Trade Agreements, while respecting the rights of developing countries enshrined in these Agreements.

26. The issue of commodities continues to occupy a priority place on the development agenda, inasmuch as the revenue from exports of these products continues to be of cardinal importance. UNCTAD needs to carry out analytical studies and provide technical cooperation to support our countries in the horizontal and vertical diversification of the goods we produce for export. There is a need to strengthen the export sector and stimulate the positive contribution which the commodity sector can make to development, and the international community is urged to further support the Common Fund for Commodities, including fulfilment of the pledges for contributions.

27. Recognizing the important contribution of foreign direct investment to our growth and development, and the modernization of our production processes, we welcome investment in productive activities in our economies, both to create jobs and share skills, technology and know-how with our peoples, and to do business and form partnerships with our enterprises so

that all enterprises can be globally competitive. We call on major home countries to expand their guarantee facilities for investment in especially LDCs, and we urge the Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency (MIGA) to provide preferential premiums for investors from developing countries that have no guarantee systems of their own. Further study of issues related to the development dimensions of international investment agreements is needed. We encourage the development of viable and internationally competitive enterprises in developing countries and we will continue to support cooperative arrangements for enterprise networking across regions and subregions. UNCTAD, in its activities on small and medium-sized enterprises, should in cooperation with other relevant organizations assist developing countries in their efforts to develop women entrepreneurship.

28. We reiterate the importance of expanding the opportunities and channels for transfer of technology and know-how to developing countries. There is a need to analyse the impact of existing multilateral trade agreements on access to technology. There is also a need to implement commitments, embodied in existing international agreements, related to technology transfers to developing countries. We believe that the transfer of technology should not be restricted on an arbitrary or discriminatory basis, especially to developing countries. Rather, the international community should establish principles and guidelines for the sharing of knowledge and technology for development.

29. The information revolution is transforming the conduct of business. The capacities of developing countries to participate effectively in electronic commerce need to be strengthened. There is also need for analysis of the implications of electronic commerce on trade and development prospects for developing countries. The fiscal, legal and regulatory aspects of electronic commerce should be analysed.

30. We welcome the fact that some developing countries are acquiring new potential by becoming important foreign investors and actors in international trade. Thus, there are greater possibilities for Economic Cooperation between Developing Countries (ECDC) to increase investment and mutual trade, as well as close industrial and technological cooperation. ECDC at the regional, subregional and interregional levels is important for linking our economies into viable economic spaces necessary for stimulating dynamic trade and investment growth. We welcome the successful conclusion of the second round of negotiations on the Global System of Trade Preferences among Developing Countries (GSTP) and invite participant countries to join efforts in deepening, speeding up and expanding the GSTP to enhance its impact and to examine possible ways of rationalizing the process of negotiations for a third round.

31. The South Summit of the year 2000 (in Havana) should be an important landmark towards enhancing North-South cooperation and ECDC and make recommendations to meet the challenges of the new millenium.

32. The capacities of UNCTAD should be brought to bear in defining a new development paradigm based on sustained economic growth and sustainable development and providing

orientations for development strategies and policies of the future. In this regard, we propose that UNCTAD devote the high-level segment of the sessions of the Trade and Development Board to debate on new strategies for development. UNCTAD should be provided with the necessary resources to become the driving-force behind the new consensus for development.

33. UNCTAD has a vital role to play in shedding light on emerging trends and shaping policies in the areas of trade, competition, investment, technology, electronic commerce, environment and finance for development, and on such issues as providing greater market access, easing the debt burden, and promoting financial flows, FDI, technology and capacity-building for human resources. UNCTAD should continue to provide assistance to developing countries in the analysis of international trade issues and in the formulation of their positive agenda for future deliberations and negotiations in the WTO. UNCTAD should also provide analytical inputs on international economic and trade issues so as to facilitate the effective participation of developing countries in multilateral discussions and negotiations. UNCTAD's development perspective is particularly appropriate for building consensus and developing appropriate guidelines and principles on emerging economic issues.

34. In this context, UNCTAD's work should contribute to the identification and application of special measures to deal with the situations of developing countries, among which are the least developed, landlocked and transit countries and small developing island States, and structurally weak, vulnerable and small economies.

35. UNCTAD's technical cooperation activities are an essential complement to its analytical and policy work, providing practical and direct benefits to recipient countries and also serving as a conduit for the assimilation of development experiences at the country and regional levels into more coherent and development-friendly policy approaches at the international level. Technical cooperation activities, encompassing policy advice, training and capacity-building programmes, should be demand-driven and emanate from the core competencies of UNCTAD. We are appreciative of the extrabudgetary contributions of donor countries and urge their continuing support, including for the Trust Fund for LDCs. Also, additional funds should be made available for technical assistance in order to continue financing the participation of national experts of developing countries in the expert meetings, taking into account the special needs of LDCs.

36. We look forward to an elaboration of the different possible modalities for the establishment, within UNCTAD, of a centre with teaching and support capability for the developing countries, as proposed in the Plan of Action.

37. We reiterate our firm commitment, in accordance with the United Nations Charter and the principles of international law, to the promotion of international peace and security, the elimination of foreign occupation and the economic prosperity of all nations. We express our readiness to cooperate with others in achieving these objectives, which would ensure a better world for present and future generations.

38. These are challenging times, especially for the developing countries. Yet there are also opportunities for building the foundations of a more equitable and dynamic system of international economic relations. Working in concert with our development partners in a constructive dialogue at UNCTAD X, we can and we will seize these opportunities to make progress towards a world of prosperity and equity of all peoples.

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Annex III

COMMUNIQUÉ BY THE MINISTERS OF TRADE OF THE LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES

Adopted at UNCTAD X, in Bangkok, on 13 February 2000

The Ministers of Trade of the least developed countries met in Bangkok on 13 February 2000 on the occasion of UNCTAD X. While underscoring the importance of UNCTAD X as it takes place at the turn of a new century and a new millennium, the Ministers noted the challenge as well as the opportunity offered by the occasion for the international community to address the shortcomings of the external environment and the constraints it poses on the development efforts of the developing countries, particularly the least developed among them.

The Ministers reviewed the process of integration of their economies into a rapidly globalizing and liberalizing world economy as the world enters the twenty-first century. They reiterated their concern at the continuing marginalization arising from this process as reflected in their low and declining share in world trade, investment and output, further aggravated by their heavy external debt burden and falling ODA. As the 1999 *LDCs Report* clearly highlights, these processes have added to the familiar supply-side constraints in their countries as they attempt to adjust to the new, more competitive international environment. The sum total of these factors has been their adverse impact on the already worsening socio-economic situation and structural weaknesses inherent in the LDCs' economies. In this regard, the Ministers called for intensified efforts by the international community to support them in their struggle to reverse these trends by overcoming the inherited disadvantages and structural constraints and put their economies on a sustainable growth path.

They underlined that beneficial integration of the LDCs into the global economy and the multilateral trading system as its main driving force would require concrete actions by the LDCs and their development partners to strengthen LDCs' supply capacities, *inter alia* through the development of physical infrastructure and human resource development, improved market access, and economic space within which appropriate policy instruments could be deployed to strengthen the competitiveness of sectors of strategic importance for the development of their trade. In this context, they expressed concern at the delay by their trading and development partners in providing bound, duty-free and quota-free market access for all products originating in the least developed countries, as well as adequate ODA, comprehensive debt relief, encouragement and promotion of FDI flows and technology transfer. The Ministers strongly believed that a combination of these measures would have a clear positive impact on LDCs' socio-economic performance and would render their pursuit of domestic economic reforms sustainable. Free market access would only be meaningful if accompanied by relaxed and

favourable rules of origin. Ministers called for more stable global prices for commodities to ensure predictable flows of export revenue for their development. In this context, Ministers called for the setting up of a mechanism for the review of price structures of LDCs' exports.

The Ministers attached importance to a rule-based multilateral trading system. A rule-based multilateral trading system provides for predictability and security of market access, which small trading nations such as LDCs need most. They stressed, however, that the formulation of new rules must take into account their special development needs and their limited capacity to implement resulting agreements. In this regard, they emphasized that the forthcoming trade negotiations take into account their proposals submitted to WTO in document WT/GC/W/251and further agreed to keep under review the progress made in this regard. They further called for thorough consideration of problems of implementation of existing multilateral trade agreements faced by the LDCs with a view to adopting corrective measures, including binding provisions on technical assistance. In the provision of these measures, the LDCs should not be required to undertake commitments that go beyond requirements for compliance with existing obligations in the WTO Agreements.

The Ministers underscored the critical importance of UNCTAD's technical assistance in strengthening the capacity of the LDCs to formulate a positive agenda and strategies in trade negotiations that enable them to participate more actively and defend their interests in multilateral trade negotiations. They also welcomed UNCTAD's analytical work and capacity-building activities in the area of investment which contribute to the ongoing national efforts in LDCs for attracting investment, especially foreign direct investment. Ministers called on UNCTAD to continue such assistance in the above areas.

Acceleration of the process of accession of the LDCs seeking accession to the WTO is a matter to which the Ministers attached greatest importance. They viewed their accession as the first logical step in their integration into the global economy. They therefore called for the establishment of clear, simplified and fast-track procedures for the accession of LDCs that are not yet members of the WTO which allow for the completion of the process within one year following application. LDCs seeking accession should automatically have their status recognized and not be subjected to commitments which go beyond those of LDCs members of the WTO.

The Ministers noted with concern the slow pace of implementation of the Integrated Framework for Trade-Related Technical Assistance Activities and the lack of results from the round tables held so far for LDCs. They called upon bilateral and multilateral development partners to provide adequate resources to facilitate the implementation of various projects proposed by LDCs at round tables. The Ministers reiterated their call contained in their Seattle Declaration for an independent review of the Integrated Framework process with a view to reaching a common understanding on the objectives of the Integrated Framework, the institutional arrangements for its implementation, with clear benchmarks for its periodical review, and the expected outcome of the process and modalities for the mobilization of

resources for the implementation of the various projects proposed by LDCs and by the core agencies in accordance with their respective mandates.

The Ministers stressed the importance of providing support to international organizations concerned with production and trade in commodities of LDCs, such as the International Jute Organization (IJO) and the Common Fund for Commodities (CFC).

The Ministers reaffirmed the commitment of their Governments to ensure effective and successful preparations for the Third United Nations Conference on the LDCs. In this connection, the Ministers welcomed the efforts undertaken by the UNCTAD secretariat in its capacity as the Conference secretariat for the Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries aimed at ensuring adequate country-level preparations by the LDCs for the Conference. The Ministers expressed appreciation to the European Union and bilateral development partners who have provided resources for the preparatory process for the Conference. They called upon the World Bank, UNDP and bilateral development partners who have not yet done so to provide resources to the Secretary-General of the Conference to ensure the success of the preparatory process of the Conference at various levels. The Ministers viewed the Conference as an important event for the international community to chart and adopt a "Collective Vision for Joint Action" for the next decade to enable the LDCs to emerge decisively, once and for all, from their marginalization.

The Ministers welcomed the measures taken by the United Nations General Assembly to strengthen the Office of the Special Coordinator for the Least Developed, Landlocked and Island Developing Countries through additional resources. They called upon the Secretary-General of UNCTAD to match this effort by redeploying internal resources so as to bring the staffing position in the Office of the Special Coordinator to levels commensurate with its mandate, including in carrying out the task of spearheading the preparations for the Third United Nations Conference on the LDCs and in fulfilling its vital role in the coordination of UN-system-wide activities in favour of LDCs.

The Ministers expressed their appreciation to the Thai Government for hosting UNCTAD X and for the generous hospitality accorded them during their stay in Bangkok. They also conveyed their appreciation to the Governments of Belgium, Ireland, Norway, Switzerland and the United Kingdom for providing the resources which facilitated the participation of some LDCs at UNCTAD X, as well as to the Governments of Finland and The Netherlands and to the European Union for their contribution in support of the preparatory process for the Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries.

Annex IV

UNCTAD AND CIVIL SOCIETY: TOWARDS OUR COMMON GOALS *

Note by the secretariat

We, organizations of civil society meeting at an NGO Plenary Caucus held in Bangkok on 7-8 February 2000, welcome the holding of UNCTAD X and would like to put forward a number of proposals that have resulted from our deliberations.

We wish, at the outset, to make explicit the values, aspirations, and concerns that we share as civil society organizations, many of which are also shared by member Governments of UNCTAD. It was such concerns that civil society and some Governments had in common in the recent and historic processes in Seattle.

We oppose the promotion and imposition of neoliberal theories and programmes incorporating liberalization, selective deregulation, privatization and the commercialization of all aspects of human life and endeavours. And we are opposed to the usurping of the roles of national Governments and citizens'democratic rights by global institutions such as the IMF, the World Bank, and the WTO.

Instead, we propose the development of a system of global governance that respects local democratic prerogatives and is based on global conventions agreed to at the United Nations. The principles of such a pluralistic and participatory form of international governance must constitute the over-arching principles and regulatory frameworks within which all global, regional, national and local governmental institutions and corporations, and all people, should cooperate.

These fundamental principles must be based on the primacy of human rights obligations, which include the principles of non-discrimination, progressive realization and non-retrogression. Such a system must also include the principles of diversity and holistic and integrated development, based not only on economic but also on political, social, gender, cultural and environmental dimensions. These must promote human cooperation and the basic needs of people, as opposed to the neoliberal promotion of untrammelled competition and a race to the bottom.

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* This statement to UNCTAD X reflects the outcome of the NGO Plenary Caucus held at UNCC-ESCAP, Bangkok, on 7-8 February 2000. It was adopted by acclamation at the meeting, which was attended by approximately 160 participants representing around 120 non-governmental organizations from over 40 countries.

These principles promote institutional deconcentration and decentralization of power and devolved decision-making at global, regional, national and local levels. They also seek to foster greater transparency and accountability. The methods and means are as important as the aims of all development strategies. These means are not only intellectual efforts and policy debates, but include changing power relations in all institutions and sectors and at all levels of society. This, in turn, demands the empowering and mobilizing of ever wider numbers of people and the building of coalitions of popular organizations and international alliances.

A NEW DEAL

1. Agriculture and food security

Food sovereignty is a fundamental right of each nation and food security – accessibility, affordability and adequate nutrition – the right of all people. For developing countries, food security is a matter of livelihood security. Therefore disciplines on agricultural trade which curb developing countries' ability to implement policies for food security should be taken out of the WTO.

Governments should uphold and protect peoples' right to equitable access to and management of land, water and natural resources, including seeds. Life forms must not be commodified; therefore, we reject any form of intellectual property rights on life. Sustainable forms of agriculture should be promoted and cooperatives at the local, national or international levels strengthened.

In achieving these, we urge UNCTAD to recognize the negative social consequences of contract farming and oppose its continued extension by corporate agribusiness as a means of rural development.

The TRIPS agreement, article 27.3(b), encourages biopiracy. UNCTAD should provide leadership and capacity in the establishment of *sui generis* systems based on the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) in order to protect community rights over resources and the strengthening of national laws against biopiracy.

UNCTAD should lead developing countries in negotiating for adequate competition disciplines on agribusiness. It should also lead in providing a mechanism for protecting developing countries from the dumping of cheap food.

UNCTAD should strengthen the capacity of developing countries in tightly regulating trade in genetically modified organisms based on a strong precautionary principle and a biosafety protocol, by supporting the creation of national or regional technical bodies.

UNCTAD should promote regional or South-South cooperation and fair trade in agriculture and fisheries in order to encourage greater diversification, sustainability and self-reliance in food production in and amongst developing countries.

UNCTAD should constructively address the issue of the long-term decline in the terms of trade of commodities for developing countries.

2. Debt and reparations

A new deal for developing countries has to be premised upon fundamental resolution of the debt crisis.

Existing proposals for debt "relief" do not release the indebted countries from debt bondage or address the fundamental causes and recurrence of the debt problem. Instead, they further subject developing countries' people and economies to the pressures and dictates of creditor countries, institutions and corporations.

We reject the HIPC initiative, and the repacking and perpetuation of the IMF and the World Bank structural adjustment programmes under the guise of the growth and poverty reduction facility.

We support the move to build an international alliance among Governments and civil society that would press for a new arrangement for the cancellation of all debt of developing countries which, in the judgement of civil society, is illegitimate, immoral or unpayable. We further demand that the control of the process dealing with debt be removed from the hands of the creditors, including the IMF, the World Bank and the Paris Club. A new independent, transparent arrangement accountable to civil society must be put in place. Such an arrangement must ensure full restitution and reparations to the people from those responsible for the human, social, political and environmental damage inflicted on developing countries and their people.

3. Finance

We urge UNCTAD to press for the abolition of IMF and World Bank stabilization and structural adjustment programmes, whatever name these go under.

In light of the failure of the G-7 to seriously respond to the crying need for a transformed global financial architecture, UNCTAD should actively discuss and make proposals in this area and help forge an agreement among its member countries that would put such a system in place. This architecture should involve capital controls at national, regional and international levels, including the Tobin tax. These innovations are necessary for global financial and economic stability. The design of this architecture must not be dictated by the policies or interests of the banks, hedge funds, the IMF, the World Bank, and the finance ministries of the G-7 countries. UNCTAD should also press for the abolition of tax havens in countries and territories.

UNCTAD should ensure that the dynamics of finance capital does not destroy the social, cultural and natural capital that supports, among other things, the achievement of food security.

Therefore, we strongly recommend that UNCTAD stand for the democratic transformation of international financial institutions which have impacted negatively on national economic sovereignty under the guise of rescuing countries facing economic crisis.

4. Labour

The current approach to trade and development has significantly worsened the situation of workers around the world. We strongly believe that UNCTAD member Governments have the clear responsibility to guarantee the fundamental labour rights of their citizens, and we recognize our responsibility as civil society organizations to provide solidarity and to help strengthen labour movements of the South.

All UNCTAD member Governments should immediately ratify and ensure effective implementation of the core ILO conventions, specifically Convention 87 (Freedom of Association), Conventions 29 and 105 (Forced Labour), Convention 100 (Equal Pay for Equal Work), Convention 111 (Discrimination in Employment), Convention 98 (Organize and Collective Bargaining), and Convention 138 and 182 (Minimum Age and Child Labour). UNCTAD member governments must recognize and allow labour to play a significant role in designing and deciding on all aspects of trade and development policy.

Corporate globalization has caused a rapidly increasing trend toward the casualization of labour and marginalization of vulnerable groups of workers – especially children, working women, migrant workers, fish workers, commercial sex workers, home workers and other workers in the informal sector. Added protection and promotion of the fundamental rights of these vulnerable groups beyond the existing ILO tripartite system is urgently needed. Further, we believe that there should not be discriminatory misuse of labour rights in North–South exchanges for economic advantage.

UNCTAD and its member Governments must recognize that respect for and implementation of fundamental labour rights have a strongly beneficial impact for sustainable development because they address critical development questions by improving equality, distributing income and increasing participation in development.

A new development paradigm must be established that recognizes the key role of labour rights within a perspective of development and human rights.

We believe that UNCTAD should promote an understanding of the beneficial connection between labour rights, human rights, and sustainable development as a matter of priority.

THE CHALLENGE TO UNCTAD

UNCTAD can play a critical role in shaping a more equitable and democratic world. UNCTAD's research and analysis has already played a key role in exposing the negative effects of globalization and suggesting alternative policies for addressing them.

However, UNCTAD's approach must now be made more fully consistent with its development mandate. The core UNCTAD assumption that full, albeit gradual, integration of developing countries in the world economy as the way to prosperity must be questioned in light of the many negative consequences of globalization – which are so painfully evident in many countries. UNCTAD's analysis must also incorporate human rights approaches to economic governance, and advances in ecological and feminist economics that propose a different paradigm from neoliberal economics, by subordinating narrow efficiency to the values of social reproduction and solidarity, social and gender equity, and environmental integrity. In addition, UNCTAD should pay greater attention to the great diversity of existing economic practices that emphasize cooperation, rather than competition-driven economic relations.

In seeking external intellectual advice and input, UNCTAD should also reverse its tendency to consult mainly with experts based in Northern research institutions, and seek greater input from developing country-based researchers, scholars and thinkers.

UNCTAD must also focus on internal social transformation in the economies of countries in both the North and the South. In particular, it should encourage countries to ensure the right to a dignified and adequate basic livelihood income for each person. However, the implications of UNCTAD's analysis of growing inequalities not only between, but also *within* nations North and South, has not led to any meaningful political debate and initiative by its member States. The absence of significant attention to internal social transformation owes itself to a simplistic North-South model of international relations that ignores social contradictions cutting across the North-South divide. UNCTAD must see itself as representing the interests of marginalized people in both the North and the South.

PROPOSALS FOR UNCTAD

International trade and investment rules promoted by the dominant global economic institutions are aimed at creating a "level playing field" between all economic players, irrespective of their scale and economic power. This understanding of "non-discrimination" in national treatment provisions assumes that equal rules should apply to very unequal players. So far, this tendency has only been resisted through "special and differential treatment" provisions, which in the WTO most often do not have contractual status and rely on artificial and arbitrary time frames unrelated to need and capacity.

We call for a human rights application of "non-discrimination", which is premised on the need for affirmative action by the state to protect and promote vulnerable groups and sectors to avoid discrimination and further marginalization. In other words, these measures are not a special favour granted to developing countries and their citizens, but are fundamental components of their right to development.

On this basis, and with the support of civil society organizations, UNCTAD could play a catalytic role in launching an international movement aimed at ensuring that international economic policies and rules are not allowed to supersede national, regional and international measures designed to protect and promote all human rights – including the right to development and widely-held social and environmental objectives. It would therefore reassert its capacity to counter-act what are in effect "development-distorting" trade and investment policies.

For this to happen, UNCTAD should:

- Undertake independent monitoring and assessments, disaggregated below the national level, of the developmental, social, gender and environmental impacts of trade/investment liberalization and globalization, and formulate proposals for addressing these problems;

- Undertake, in cooperation with other United Nations agencies, independent impact assessments of intellectual property regimes such as TRIPs on food security, development, health and technology transfer;

- Undertake, with the FAO and the WTO, a comprehensive assessment of the impact of the WTO's Agreement on Agriculture and its Agreement on Subsidies and Countervailing Measures;

- Undertake independent analysis, from a development perspective, of new proposals in areas such as labour, finance, investment, government procurement and competition, building on its ongoing work such as that of the *Trade and Development Report (TDR)*;

- Ensure that its work on foreign direct investment (FDI), transnational corporations (TNCs) and financial flows, particularly the *World Investment Report*, is more independent and critical of the development impact of FDI and more coherent with analytical work in other areas like the *Trade and Development Report*;

- Approach with extreme caution proposals for any multilateral, regional or bilateral investment agreement, given the frequently negative impact of FDI and other forms of capital flows on peoples' welfare, national sovereignty and development;

- Educate and encourage its member States to frame national antitrust policy and laws that would serve to empower small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and protect consumers against excessive market power of TNCs;
- Promote improved corporate governance and corporate transparency by encouraging the use of acceptable standards for financial, environmental, social, and ethical accounting, auditing and reporting, and, in addition, call on all member Governments to adopt effective anti-corruption measures;

- Address imbalances and inequities of existing trade agreements, as well as problems relating to the implementation of such agreements, with a view to achieving the best options for the developmental and social needs of people in developing countries;

- Monitor the compatibility of trade agreements with other obligations undertaken by Governments under United Nations treaties such as on human rights, environment, women and labour;

- Establish an Intergovernmental Group of Experts to discuss issues pertaining to consumer policy;

- Conduct an audit of the origins of the financial debts of developing countries and a parallel study of the historical and contemporary social and ecological debt owed by the North to the South;

- Encourage its member Governments to submit a formal request to the International Court of Justice for an advisory opinion on the legality of external debts of developing countries.

In all these areas, UNCTAD's work must be firmly rooted within its development mandate.

In order to strengthen the role, contribution and scrutiny of civil society in the work of the organization, UNCTAD must open up to civil society participation in its official deliberations, including in the Trade and Development Board, the commissions and expert groups, on issues such as competition policy, investment and consumer protection. To this end, UNCTAD must follow the lead of ECOSOC and review and extend its procedures and arrangements for granting consultative status to national civil society organizations.

In addition, UNCTAD should deepen and strengthen its commitment towards and report on the involvement of civil society as agreed at UNCTAD IX.

Furthermore, UNCTAD could develop dynamic partnerships with civil society organizations to strengthen its outreach capacity at the national level, notably by fostering public and parliamentary debates around its policy proposals. This could be an important component

in democratizing economic governance in both developed and developing countries, and would contribute to making trade and finance ministries accountable to the wider social development objectives that economic policy should serve.

We hope UNCTAD X will consider the aforementioned recommendations, the implen. 'ation of which will contribute to the achievement of the common goals of equity, democracy, and sustainability that are shared by civil society, the member Governments of UNCTAD and its secretariat.

Annex V

FINAL DECLARATION OF THE PARLIAMENTARY MEETING ON THE OCCASION OF UNCTAD X

Adopted unanimously on 11 February 2000

We, national legislators elected by our peoples to represent them, are meeting in Bangkok at the invitation of the Inter-Parliamentary Union and the Thai National Assembly on the eve of the Tenth Session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD X).

We call on parliaments and their members to become more closely involved in the international negotiating process on trade, finance and development issues. As members of parliament, we speak for constituencies that cut across the divide of rich and poor, capital and labour, the public and private sector, and corporate and small-scale enterprise. We express concerns that encompass many single issues championed by various lobbies and pressure groups. Moreover, greater parliamentary involvement can only be beneficial to development. Indeed, democracy, respect for the rule of law and a government that is transparent and accountable to parliament are indispensable building blocks for good governance and sustainable development.

We are convinced that only through greater solidarity and international cooperation will all peoples benefit from the processes of globalization and trade liberalization. Our participation in the formulation of global development policy at UNCTAD X takes on added importance at a time when the world community is assessing the potential and risks of globalization and trade liberalization for world economic growth and development and is formulating development strategies to make globalization a process that benefits all peoples. We therefore take this opportunity to lay before UNCTAD X our perspective on the current state of globalization and development.

Impact of globalization

The current processes of globalization and liberalization have had a major impact on people all over the world, politically, economically, socially, culturally and environmentally. While offering unprecedented opportunities for expansion of international trade and investment - major generators of economic growth and development - globalization and liberalization can also have substantial adverse repercussions on the development process if not properly managed. Although financial and trade liberalization has contributed to economic growth in many countries, this has not been the case in others, particularly the less developed countries. The Asian financial crisis, the systemic effects of which have adversely affected international

trade and the global economic and social development of many countries in the region and beyond, is a clear example of the downside risk of rapid liberalization of financial and capital markets without appropriate supervision and regulation and an effective mechanism for the management of short-term capital flows.

For a great number of developing countries, the current international trading system within the WTO framework has not yet yielded its expected benefits. Developing countries consider that the developed members have not yet fully implemented, in terms of both content and spirit, their WTO obligations, particularly in the areas of market access for agricultural and textile products. Various non-tariff barriers have been and continue to be created. They also feel that the WTO has yet to create a level playing field and for these reasons emphasize their need for special and differential treatment and technical assistance, particularly in the area of professional training, to implement their WTO obligations.

These concerns highlight the need to strengthen solidarity and international cooperation in transforming existing international trade, financial and investment regimes into a more coherent system conducive to sustainable development and growth for all.

Although global management requires international and multilateral norms, standards and regimes, they must be flexible and operate within an agreed framework. Multilateral systems and regimes have to be negotiated to ensure that the concerns of various groups of countries are duly taken into account and that, in the end, a balanced settlement of interests is achieved.

The overriding preoccupation in this regard is to ensure that emerging multilateral systems enable different national models of political, economic and social organization to function within a universally accepted framework of norms and rules. We are strongly convinced that no system of globalization is acceptable if it attempts to impose standardized practices irrespective of the cultural and social values that have shaped societies through the ages.

Trade liberalization and human development

There is a growing consensus that economic growth should serve as a means towards human development. Growth should translate into the betterment of people's lives. International trade as an economic tool can make an important contribution to this goal by raising standards of living and enhancing employment opportunities, generating a steady growth of real income, eliminating poverty and ensuring sustainable development.

Mechanisms are required to ensure that the benefits of trade are widely shared, also among countries that are currently marginalized. While promoting free and fair trade, we need to establish a level playing field. To this end, arrangements for special and differential treatment

for developing countries and countries with economies in transition have to be considered. Importance should also be attached to assistance in capacity-building.

The multilateral trading system under the World Trade Organization offers the prospect of further trade liberalization, thus expanding trading opportunities. To produce realistic results, the next round of multilateral trade negotiations must have a broad-based and balanced agenda, taking into account the interests and concerns of all participants. Agricultural negotiations should aim at achieving the long-term objective of fundamental reform, while taking account of food security concerns and the role of agriculture in environmental protection. Current obstacles to agricultural trade expansion should be reviewed as a matter of urgency. In services, the objective should be to achieve progressively higher levels of liberalization. In the case of manufactured products, non-tariff barriers must also be addressed to preserve the benefits resulting from tariff reduction. As technology holds the key to enhanced productivity and competitiveness, improved arrangements to facilitate the transfer of technology are imperative.

As members of parliament, we reaffirm our belief that economic well-being and social development for all -- women equally with men, the poor and marginalized equally with the wealthy -- can be raised through the promotion of international trade. However, mechanisms are needed to ensure that globalization and liberalization effectively lead to improvements in labour and environmental standards, the protection of children and, generally, respect for human rights. Governments are encouraged to pursue a trade policy that facilitates free and open trade, without a hidden protectionist agenda.

New International financial architecture and resources for development

For many years now, the Inter-Parliamentary Union has been speaking on behalf of the world parliamentary community in support of the view that a new international financial architecture ought to be established in order to overcome the deficiencies of current arrangements established at Bretton Woods in the 1940s.

As a result of rapid global liberalization of financial markets, private capital flows of all types have increased in speed and volume. But the benefits of liberalized flows of finance are often nullified by the adverse effects of excessively volatile short-term capital flows, as reflected in the recent Asian financial crisis that has had severe negative repercussions on international trade and processes of social and economic development in the region and beyond. To address these risks of globalization, the need to establish a new international financial architecture has now become more urgent.

Establishing a new architecture should aim at crisis prevention, providing better mechanisms for risk and crisis management, enhancing international financial stability to promote international trade and economic development, and intensifying developing countries' participation in reforming the international financial architecture. Measures should include, *inter alia*, enhancing the predictability and transparency of international capital flows;

strengthening the framework for national and international regulation and supervision of short-term capital flows and introducing safeguards against speculative attacks; encouraging burden-sharing between debtors and creditors; and improving the role of international lenders of last resort and regional financial support mechanisms, including the question of conditionality of access to credit from the International Monetary Fund. We believe that UNCTAD is well placed to assist developing countries and countries with economies in transition in addressing these issues.

There is an ongoing lamentable tendency to downgrade the importance and significance of official development assistance (ODA), which is a vital resource for poorer developing countries with little or no access to international private capital. Its current level of less than 0.3 per cent of GNP, in contrast to the universally agreed target of 0.7 per cent of GNP of the developed countries, has to be viewed with great concern.

It should be recalled in this connection that major conferences of the United Nations over the last decade, such as the World Summit for Social Development and the World Food Summit, were used by the international community to proclaim the goal of eliminating absolute poverty and improving standards in education, health care and food security. Wide-ranging international norms and targets were likewise agreed upon for such economic, social and environmental issues as enhancement of the role of women, removal of discriminatory practices, the rights of children, child labour, access to water and sanitation, the safeguarding of forests and biodiversity. We reiterate our view that, for these goals to be achieved, a renewed effort to revitalize ODA flows to poor countries is crucial.

We are encouraged by recent decisions to write off the external debt of poor developing countries -- a measure that the IPU has been consistently advocating. It is important to ensure now that these decisions are rapidly implemented so that the countries concerned see the benefits of debt write-offs as soon as possible. Further concessions are required, in terms of both conditionality and the volume of debt written off.

We are convinced that UNCTAD can play a significant role in taking a fresh look at the current structure of development finance in order to establish mechanisms within the multilateral system and in bilateral aid arrangements that prevent the accumulation of external debt by poor countries in the future. A decisive shift towards promoting sustainable direct foreign investment and providing concessionary finance as grants instead of loans is probably the best way of achieving this aim.

Need for transparency and fair negotation

Multilateral and international systems -- be they in the area of trade, finance, social or environmental regulation -- should invariably be transparent in their design, application and practice. While significant advances have been made in recent years in improving transparency in some international organizations such as the World Bank, there is still a lack of transparency

in the decision-making and functions of various multilateral bodies. Although membership of these organizations is almost universal, some important decisions are taken by just a few. Moreover, secrecy surrounds the operation of such bodies and access to relevant information is largely confined to Governments, excluding legislators and civil society.

Lack of transparency undermines the processes of benign globalization and democratic governance. Multilateral trade concessions gained in the past have been the result of intense bargaining and negotiation. To advance the cause of free trade is therefore to achieve an environment where fair negotiation and fair bargaining can take place in a transparent manner without domination by the politically and economically powerful. As parliamentarians, we urge UNCTAD and WTO to address the issue of transparency and fair negotiation, with full participation by all countries, before the world slips back into protectionism.

Multilateral institutions also need to set standards of transparency and accountability in their decision-making process and in actions at the global, regional and national levels. This is a key issue in the management of international trade and finance. Transnational corporations should be equally transparent in their practices and should be accountable and responsible, especially with regard to environmental, labour and social concerns. Particular attention must be given to the eradication of corrupt practices in public and corporate transactions.

Finally, we call on the Inter-Parliamentary Union, as the world organization of parliaments of sovereign States, to pursue and strengthen its dialogue and cooperation with multilateral institutions active in the field of trade, finance and development, in particular with WTO, UNCTAD and the Bretton Woods institutions, with the objective of providing a parliamentary dimension enabling members of parliament to convey the concerns of peoples everywhere to these institutions and to assist in forging popular support for their action. Through the greater involvement of parliamentarians in global development policy-making, the legislative branch will also be able to contribute substantively to developing the legislative change and harmonization that are essential to participatory processes of globalization and trade liberalization.

Parliamentary follow-up action

We also recommend that the following measures be adopted by parliaments and their members in each country:

- Ensure that the final document of UNCTAD X, as well as the present Declaration of
the Parliamentary Meeting, are distributed in parliament to relevant committees;

- Equally ensure that these documents are considered in parliament and its relevant standing committees including, where er possible, through plenary debate in parliament; and

- Utilize fully the parliamentary oversight function with a view to ensuring governmental follow-up to the outcome of UNCTAD X.

Finally, we recommend that parliaments and their members, working through their world organization, the Inter-Parliamentary Union:

- Invite the IPU Council to endorse this Declaration, thus converting it into a policy statement of the IPU on trade, finance and development;

- Request the IPU Secretary-General to circulate this Declaration to all parliaments represented in the IPU, inviting them to ensure that its contents are brought to the attention of all relevant parliamentary bodies for their consideration and guidance;

- Request the IPU to establish a world directory of all parliamentary bodies and standing committees that address trade, finance and development issues with a view to facilitating the sharing of relevant information and experiences among them and with the IPU and relevant multilateral institutions;

- Invite the IPU and UNCTAD to work closely together to raise awareness of parliaments and their members on the implications for national legislation of specific trade and investment issues and to provide assistance in this regard, including through the organization of parliamentary workshops;

- Invite the IPU to organize a global specialized conference on trade, finance and development issues, in cooperation with the relevant multilateral institutions, to be convened in Geneva by the end of January 2001 at the latest; and

- Invite the governing bodies of IPU to establish an Ad Hoc Commission to look into issues relating to parliamentary follow-up to the Third WTO Ministerial Conference in Seattle and to make appropriate recommendations for action.

Annex VI

CLOSING STATEMENT BY THE SECRETARY-GENERAL OF UNCTAD

From the Washington consensus to the spirit of Bangkok

Is there a Bangkok Consensus or a Bangkok Convergence?

In the course of our deliberations here in Bangkok, I have tried to reflect on the question that I put to myself at the opening session of UNCTAD X, the Round Table of Eminent Economists. I asked whether there are some broad themes of thinking about trade and development that have emerged with greater clarity as a result of our discussions.

The contributions that the Conference has received have been diverse and wide-ranging. We have listened to ideas coming to us from all points of the compass - from Heads of State and Heads of Government, from the delegations of the member States, from the leaders of the international financial institutions, from the representatives of Parliaments and of non-governmental organizations, and entrepreneurs from SMEs and TNCs, from the directors of the agencies and regional commissions of the United Nations system, as well as from academic experts.

After such a rich diet, we might be excused if we felt that we were suffering from a problem of intellectual indigestion, and as if we had to reach for a little pill labelled "consensus" in order to ease the discomfort.

The economic discourse of the past decade has been dominated by the so-called "Washington Consensus", twelve rules of economic policy with which all sensible people were supposed to agree. However, these rules quickly proved to be too restrictive, and even the World Bank, in the person of Professor Joseph Stiglitz, began to adventure "beyond the Washington Consensus". More recently, in the speech he gave to OXFAM's Gilbert Murray lecture in Oxford on 11 January, the Chancellor of the Exchequer of the United Kingdom, Gordon Brown, said that "we need to move beyond the Washington Consensus of the 1980s, a creature of its time that narrowed our growth and employment objectives. Which assumed by liberalising, deregulating, privatising and getting prices right, private markets would allocate resources efficiently for growth. This has proven inadequate for the insecurities and challenges of globalization". And he concluded: "We need to find a new 2000 paradigm. The new consensus cannot be a Washington consensus, but as we have recognised in the poverty reduction strategies, countries must claim ownership and make it a part of their national consensus." It would be tempting now to be more adventurous still, to announce the arrival of the "Bangkok Consensus", and to hand you a different set of twelve points. I am tempted, but

the fate of the previous consensus suggests to me that to do so would be unwise. Consensuses self-destruct. I will not, like King Canute of England, pretend that I can control the tide of world opinion on issues of fundamental concern to all. Neither will I offer myself up to some ironic comment like the one that Georges Clemenceau attributed to President Wilson's Fourteen Points when he said: "Even the good Lord contented Himself with only ten commandments, and we should not try to improve upon them".

What I want to do today is more modest, but nevertheless significant for UNCTAD's member Governments, its partners in the United Nations system and civil society. Instead of trying to freeze the ongoing debate into a static mould labelled Bangkok Consensus, I will strive to capture the dynamic currents starting from opposite ends and gradually converging towards some common ground. I want to try to define the ways in which the spectrum of opinion has in fact narrowed in recent years, not just among academic experts, but also among national leaders and those at the head of international organizations.

The key event of our time has been the ending of the Cold War, which brought with it a new awareness of the phenomenon of globalization. The ending of the bipolar world of US and Soviet power also undermined the identity of the "third world" that tried to stand apart from both power blocs. The countries in this grouping have ever since had to define themselves in relation to the phenomenon of globalization. That is to say, their strategic choice is whether they accept or reject a growing integration into a single system of trading and financial relations, in which the most powerful participant country is the United States.

As the Prime Minister of Singapore told the Conference: "Today, capitalism is everywhere triumphant ... and that may pose a challenge". Mr Goh Chok Tong noted that, for countries that begin to integrate globally, rapid economic progress brings in its wake new insecurities. As the Asian financial crisis showed all too clearly, the consequent disruption is systemic in scope. The responses to these risks by the international community have been slow and inadequate, indicating the need for new institution-building in the international sphere. This is a task that will require both developed and developing countries to be more flexible in admitting elements of what have hitherto been purely domestic policies into international negotiation.

The end of the Cold War has created some of the pre-conditions for such mutual flexibility. One of the results of the collapse of the Russian and East European socialist regimes has been the virtual disappearance of the belief that the cutting of trade and financial links with the rest of the world will generate "true development". Now the debate is about the appropriate terms on which countries should insert themselves into the global trade and finance network.

The idea that the national state can itself spearhead a modernisation of the economy by means of state-owned industries is another casualty of the end of the Cold War. This strategy has lost its credibility because of its excessive fiscal and environmental costs. It also lost support because state enterprise was less effective than private in mastering the new

technologies that are the heart of economic development. Now countries are willing to create policy regimes that are attractive to private enterprise, whether domestic or foreign, that can bring about technological upgrading.

That macro-economic *instability* was ever strongly advocated is something that I doubt. However, it was commonplace for politicians to take actions that favoured higher inflation and growing balance of payments deficits in the hope that they would be bailed out of their economic crises by their Cold War partners. Now the imperative of macro-economic stability is much more generally respected. The debate today centres on the means to such stability, for example the best policies for exchange rate management, and not the objective of stability itself.

In these three respects - freer trade, promotion of the private sector and the imperative of macro stability - I submit that informed public opinion has converged, during the last ten years, towards liberal views of desirable economic policies. Opinion is by no means homogenous, but the range of deviation is greatly reduced. This has provided the bases on which developing countries can move towards meeting the international standards that are involved in the globalization process.

At the same time, however, such standards should not be set exclusively by the developed countries. They will have to be negotiated between all the parties that subscribe to them in a democratic and transparent manner. And, once they are negotiated, the developed countries must be willing to be bound by them even when they cut across their particular national interests. This is one of the clearest appeals made at this Conference by the Heads of State and Government who have spoken. A more inclusive and participatory decision-making process is needed at the international level.

The new world in which we have been living for the last ten years has not only been about convergence towards liberal economic policies. It has also seen the increasing acceptance of ideas that have been denied persistently by advocates of "uncritical market triumphalism".

For the sake of balance, I shall also cite three examples of this contrary movement of ideas.

The notion that capitalism is an economic system that is vulnerable to explosive financial crises has long been resisted. Although Keynes produced a *General Theory* that explained how monetary factors could prevent an economy from functioning optimally, the Cold War period was one of increasingly successful attempts to discredit the Keynesian analysis. Awareness of the vulnerability of the real economy, the economy of people's employment, income and investment, to malfunctions in the monetary sector become blurred. There have been plenty of economists willing to argue that complete freedom of markets, including money markets, would produce the best of all economic worlds. Fortunately, UNCTAD's economists did not take that view, and from the early 1990s foresaw trouble ahead from what Mr Juan Somavia has called

"casino capitalism". As John Kenneth Galbraith recently remarked: "The fact is that capitalism is inherently unstable and it is particularly so in its early, infant stages".

When trouble came, starting in Thailand in 1997, it brought with it a reversal of opinion. That episode revealed the sheer size of the financial flows that the industrial world could generate, relative to the normal size of flows of developing countries. The swift entry, and even swifter exit, of such massive flows made it clear for all to see the havoc that can be unleashed on small and fragile financial systems that are open to such tidal waves of finance. Despite the commitment of many international agencies to the complete liberalisation of capital markets right up to (and beyond) the hour of Asia's crisis, the same agencies now say that they can see some virtues in certain types of capital controls.

At last, then, a more realistic evaluation of the limits of unrestricted capitalism is evident. The leaders of Asia have told the Conference of their perception of the increased volatility and systemic instability of international finance. The Honourable Prime Minister Mahathir bin Mohamad of Malaysia and President Abdurrahman Wahid of Indonesia were extremely forceful and persuasive, almost dramatic, at times touching, in their personal accounts of the ordeals endured by their peoples. Their addresses were certainly among the high points of the Conference. Their message is that neither volatility or instability can be effectively managed by means of the existing financial architecture. Its further reform is an urgent priority, and it should address the more substantive aspects of the problem.

As Yilmaz Akyuz, Chief of the Macro-Economic and Development Policies Programme of UNCTAD, said at the Host Country event on "Causes and Sources of the Asian Financial Crisis", the crisis has shown that "when policies falter in managing integration and regulating capital flows, there is no limit to the damage that international finance can inflict on an economy. It is true that control and regulation over such flows may reduce some of the benefits of participating in global markets. However, until systemic instability and risks are adequately dealt with through globalization ... the task of preventing such crises falls on governments in developing countries."

Positive processes of integration into the world economy are the goal. This has never changed. However, the liberalisation measures that are necessary to this end must be phased in a prudent and orderly manner. They must take account of specific local circumstances, they must be complemented by appropriate domestic policies and accompanied by institution- and capacity-building. Only then can they hope to succeed.

Globalization is *not* an unstoppable change sweeping inevitably across the face of the world. It is, at least in part, a work of deliberate construction, that has consisted so far of a number of regional integration projects, in Europe and Latin America, in addition to the emergence of the financial markets of Asia. As was stressed by President Abdelaziz Bouteflika, President of the Republic of Algeria and current Chairman of the Organization of African Unity, "the developing countries, representing the sweeping majority of mankind, are excluded from

the process of consultation and collective decision-making.....A new map of the world is being drawn, from where a whole continent, Africa, is merely erased".

These economies remain marginal because of their very narrow export bases in primary commodities. In the short run, they are adversely affected by systemic financial crises only indirectly, as the price levels of primary commodities fall with the deflation of world demand. Their longer-run development is jeopardised by the secular fall in the terms of trade of commodities *vis à vis* manufactures. The existence of a secular downward trend in the terms of trade for commodity producers was denied long after UNCTAD's first Secretary-General, Dr. Raul Prebisch, drew attention to it. In recent years, by contrast, this fact has at last been generally accepted.

As we prepare for the UN Conference on the Least Developed Countries, we must all do more to formulate practical assistance to address these countries' problems. Export diversification is an important component of any solution, but this in turn depends on relaxing the constraints on supply capacity, including investment in infrastructure and human capital formation. The representatives of governments have frequently expressed at this Conference the need for appropriate external support for these and similar measures to support the long-run development of the least developed countries. In this context, I can assure the Conference that the UNCTAD secretariat will itself renew and strengthen its efforts to this end.

My third example of the belated recognition of inconvenient facts concerns the question of income distribution, and absolute poverty. Throughout the 1980s, the item "poverty reduction" was entirely off the official international agenda. The excuse was that only once growth was achieved could matters of redistribution be addressed. To reverse the sequence and begin redistribution before growth was realised was a naive an impractical suggestion, we were assured.

In 1990, nevertheless, poverty was chosen as the subject for the World Bank *World Development Report*. When Mr. Wolfensohn became President, he declared that the reduction of poverty was the Bank's "overriding objective". Now, at this Conference, we had the pleasure of hearing Mr. Michel Camdessus, the outgoing Executive Director of the International Monetary Fund, declare that "there is a mutually reinforcing relationship between . . . growth and the reduction of poverty and inequality . . .".

This is fully in line with the views of Professor Frances Stewart, as given to the Round Table of Eminent Economists. She quoted numerous studies to the effect that a more equal income distribution is associated with faster growth. The reasons for this are both political and economic in nature. Politically, regimes that sustain or actively create inequality tend to rely on policies that will put the brakes on economic growth. Economically, reducing inequality has a variety of positive economic effects, such as reducing the fertility of populations, widening the market, and raising the productivity of labour. Our instincts of solidarity are not arbitrary, but well grounded in reason.

I have argued that, while we have observed a convergence of opinion towards the policies of economic liberalism, simultaneously we have witnessed a frank official acknowledgement of the key unsolved problems of the capitalist economic order. These are its proneness to financial crisis, its economic undermining of peasant production and its tendency to neglect the problem of poverty. All of these problems especially affect developing countries, and their resolution will not come about naturally, but only with selective and intelligent forms of government action.

The convergence of the last decade has come about by movement from both ends of the ideological spectrum. What does this imply? To me, it suggests that the period from 1914 to 1990 was indeed, as it has been called by the historian Eric Hobsbawm, "the age of extremes". Since 1990, the world has been learning to live without the extreme policies of the political left *and* without the extreme ideology of the political right. It is almost as if society had to wait for the inadequate policies of state socialism to be discredited *before* it could permit itself to rediscover the enduring problems of capitalism that those policies were supposed to be able to solve.

In my view, this dual movement of ideas reveals a world recovering its sense of moral values, and this is a credible reason for hope. We are now increasingly aware that both governments and markets require a moral basis for their proper functioning. Markets cannot operate when they are dominated by the behaviour of opportunists, inside traders or players who freely break their contracts. Governments cannot operate as they should when dominated by the behaviour of the corrupt and greedy. And development itself is impossible unless both markets and governments function properly, that is, working together in partnership. Many aspects of the so-called "failure of development" during the last fifty years can be readily explained, once we have these three precepts in mind.

Economies do not develop just because they exist. Economic development has been historically exceptional, and not a general rule. It does not happen automatically in response to the fact that a country has fertile land or large deposits of mineral resources. It is more likely to happen where elaborate systems of human cooperation have evolved. Markets and governments are both the institutional embodiment of this cooperation. The good functioning of all social institutions rests, in turn, not only on habits of personal trust, but also on habits of general and impersonal reciprocity of behaviour. These habits are reinforced by our religious beliefs, whatever the religion that guides us.

I could add to the six areas of consensus that I have already discussed by mentioning the need to make the best use of the changing opportunities for technological progress, and the importance of mobilising financial resources for development. Everyone would agree with our eminent experts Dr. Perez and Dr. Botchwey about the centrality of these two issues.

But, rather than formalising a new consensus on economic policy in a list with a fixed number of key points, I believe that it is more important to urge that extremism in economic policy be abandoned by all sides. Let us finally put away those doctrines of economic policy that, as a matter of fact, were never economic in origin at all, but created in the heat of a geopolitical conflict that is now, mercifully, concluded.

As for the issues of economic policy that remain, we should avoid any forced unanimity. Unless there is free scope for the exchange of economic ideas, for criticism and counter-criticism, our economic understanding will not make any further progress. We should not lose sight also of the inherent limits of convergence and even of consensus. Even when we agree on basic principles, we may often differ on how to apply these principles to concrete situations that will not always be interpreted in the same way by all of us. Economists still disagree about the causes of the Asian crisis and about the remedies employed to end it. Likewise, economic historians continue to argue about the causes of the Great Depression and what finally put an end to it.

As we look to the future, let us not forget the wise words spoken here by the Indian Minister of Commerce and Industry, Mr. Murasoli Maran. The end of socialism does not silence the cry of the poor, and out of the pain of poverty must be born new dreams of justice - a new world economic order.

Today I want to insist that the building of an international community that will respect the aspirations of all its members for sustainable development must rest on the same moral foundation as does sustainable development itself. The fundamental idea is once again that of generalised reciprocity.

However, as Raul Prebisch declared when UNCTAD was established in 1964, the reciprocity of international economic relations must be real. It cannot be merely conventional, it cannot be formal only. It cannot be based on a nominal equality of countries that is belied in all the practices of negotiation, decision-making and dispute settlement. Precisely because, so far, global integration has affected only a dozen developing countries, the economic world is still divided. In such a world, real reciprocity means taking account of the underlying asymmetry of economic structures. Real reciprocity still has to be constructed. It will be the new international order that so many nations in this Conference have demanded. What are they asking for? Three things, above all:

1) They want the massive barriers to be dismantled in relation to trade in agriculture, textiles and clothing and in the areas where tariff peaks and escalation still prevail, even after the implementation of the Uruguay Round Agreements. Although greater access to industrial countries' markets will not solve the problems of the least developed countries, it is crucial to securing the benefits of an open global trading system for the more advanced developing countries.

2) They want recognition for their efforts in promoting regional economic solidarity. Provided that these efforts are in the form of "open regionalism", they can strengthen the move towards positive global economic integration.

3) They want existing international economic institutions to evolve so that they are capable of bridging the interests of both developed and developing countries. As the NGOs have emphasized, such institutions must be more pluralistic and participatory than they are today.

In the aftermath of the WTO Ministerial Meeting in Seattle, the prospects for progress in these three directions are at best mixed. This Conference has provided the opportunity for a wide-ranging exchange of views. In my view, it has been instrumental in creating an atmosphere of greater mutual understanding on the complexities of the globalization process. But much remains to be done in translating this into practical moves for institutional change at the international level.

The entire international community must see this as its goal in the four years ahead of us. UNCTAD's role in assisting the emergence of more effective international economic institutions must be a constructive one. UNCTAD must deploy for this purpose all of the three instruments at its command - research, policy advocacy and technical assistance. I look forward to the challenge that this will present

Annex VII

PARTICIPANTS IN THE INTERACTIVE DEBATES AND THE GENERAL DEBATE

Keynote speakers in the interactive debates were: Mr. Michel Camdessus, Managing Director, International Monetary Fund; Mr. Enrique Iglesias, President, Inter-American Development Bank; Mr. Juan Somavia, Director-General, International Labour Organization; Mr. Mike Moore, Director-General, World Trade Organization; and Mr. James Wolfensohn, President, World Bank.

Representatives of the following States members of UNCTAD participated in the interactive debates and the general debate: Algeria; Angola; Argentina; Australia; Austria; Bahrain; Bangladesh; Barbados; Belarus; Belgium; Benin; Bhutan; Bolivia; Botswana; Brazil; Brunei Darussalam; Bulgaria; Burkina Faso; Burundi; Cambodia; Canada; Cape Verde; Chile; China; Colombia; Congo; Costa Rica; Cuba; Czech Republic; Democratic People's Republic of Korea; Denmark; Dominican Republic; Ecuador; Egypt; El Salvador; Ethiopia; Finland; France; Gabon; Gambia; Germany; Ghana; Guatemala; Guinea; Holy See; Hungary; India; Indonesia; Iraq; Ireland; Islamic Republic of Iran; Israel; Italy; Jamaica; Japan; Kenya; Kuwait; Lao People's Democratic Republic; Lebanon; Lesotho; Libyan Arab Jamahiriya; Lithuania; Luxembourg; Madagascar; Malawi; Malaysia; Malta; Mauritania; Mauritius; Mexico; Mongolia; Morocco; Myanmar; Nepal; Netherlands; Nigeria; Norway; Pakistan; Panama; Papua New Guinea; Paraguay; Peru; Philippines; Poland; Portugal; Qatar; Republic of Korea; Romania; Russian Federation; Saint Lucia; Saudi Arabia; Senegal; Sierra Leone; Singapore; Slovakia; Slovenia; South Africa; Spain; Sri Lanka; Sudan; Sweden; Switzerland; Thailand; The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia; Tunisia; Turkey; Uganda; United Arab Emirates; United Kingdom; United Republic of Tanzania; United States of America; Uruguay; Venezuela; Viet Nam; Yemen; Zambia; Zimbabwe. The representative of Palestine also participated.

Representatives of the following intergovernmental organizations participated in the interactive debates and the general debate: Andean Community; ECA; ECE; ECLAC; ESCAP; ESCWA; European Community; FAO; ILO; Inter-American Development Bank; Inter-Parliamentary Union; OECD; Organization of African Unity; UNEP; UNICEF; UNIDO; UNIFEM; WHO; WIPO; World Bank; WTO.

Representatives of the following non-governmental organizations participated in the interactive debates and the general debate: Action Aid; Catholic Fund for Overseas Development; Christian Aid; Consumers International; Focus on the Global South; International Confederation of Free Trade Unions; International South Group Network; OXFAM International; Third World Network; World Association for Small and Medium Enterprises; World Vision International.

Annex VIII

PARTICIPANTS IN ROUND TABLES

High-Level Round Table with Eminent Economists (12 February 2000)

Professor Alice Amsden, Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Mr. Hans Binswanger, World Bank, Washington, DC
Mr. Kwesi Botchewey, Harvard University
Professor Bernard Chavance, University of Paris
Professor Peter Evans, University of California, Berkeley
Dr. Alfred Maizels, Oxford University
Professor Deepak Nayyar, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi
Ms. Carlota Perez, Independent Consultant, Caracas and Honorary Research Fellow, University of Sussex
Professor Frances Stewart, Oxford University
Professor Alan Winters, University of Sussex
Professor Ippei Yamazawa, Institute of Developing Economies, Tokyo

High-Level Round Table with Heads of United Nations Agencies, Programmes and Related Institutions (12 February 2000)

Participants:
Dr. Supachai Panitchpakdi, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Commerce of Thailand and President of UNCTAD X
Mr. Mark Malloch Brown, Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
Mr. J. Denis Bélisle, Executive Director, International trade Centre UNCTAD/WTO (ITC)
Mr. Nitin Desai, Under-Secretary-General, United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN/DESA)
Mr. Jacques Diouf, Director-General, Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)
Mr. Kamil Idris, Director-General, World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)
Mr. Carlos A. Magariños, Director-General, United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)
Mr. Mike Moore, Director-General, World Trade Organization (WTO)
Mr. Rubens Ricupero, Secretary-General, United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)
Mr. Juan Somavía, Director-General, International Labour Organization (ILO)
Mr. Michael Zammit Cutajar, Executive Secretary, United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)

Round Table on the Human Dimension of Development
Empowering Entrepreneurs for the 21st Century (18 Feburary 2000)

Mr. Lucas Izoton, Director, Cobra D'Agua (leisurewear designer and manufacturer), Brazil
Ms. Yue-Sai Kan, Chairperson, Sue-Sai Cosmetics and author, China
Mr. Reda Mehigueni, Director, La Laiterie d'Azzaba (milk products), Algeria
Ms. Julia Muntu, Managing Director, Cozy Homes (home and office furnishings) and Truworth-Uganda Ltd. (clothing franchise), Uganda
Mr. Narayan Murthy, Chairman and CEO, Infosys Technologies Ltd. (software services industry), India
Mr. Peter N. Petrov, Director, TST Company (photo equipment and services, and agrobusiness), Russian Federation
Khunying Chanut Piyaoui, Chairperson and Managing Director, Dusit Thani Public Co. Ltd. (hotel and tourism industry), Thailand

Host Country Special Event

Symposium on Economic and Financial Recovery in Asia (17 February 2000)
(Moderator: Dr. Ammar Siamwalla, Thailand Development Research Institute)

Causes and Sources of the Asian Financial Crisis, presented by Mr. Yilmaz Akyuz, Chief, Macro-economic and Development Policies Branch, UNCTAD
Comments by: Dr. Azizul Islam, Director, Development Research and Policy Analysis Division, ESCAP; Mr. Vichal Pubpocha, General Manager and Country Manager, Thailand, Dresdner Bank; and Mr. Homi Kharas, Director of Poverty Reduction and Economic Management for the East Region, World Bank.

State of the Recovery
Discussants: Dr. Pisit Leeahtam, Deputy Minister of Finance of Thailand; Dr. Jun Kwang Woo, Special Adviser to the Minister of Finance and Economy of the Republic of Korea; and Mr. Shogo Ishil, Senior Resident Representative of the IMF in Thailand.

The Way Forward
Discussants: Mr. Myong-Ho Shin, Vice-President (Region West), Asian Development Bank and Mr. Pote Videtyontrakich, Managing Director, Credit Suisse First Boston.

Annex IX

CHECKLIST OF DOCUMENTS

TD/63/Rev.2	Rules of Procedure of the Conference
TD/379	Provisional agenda and annotations
TD/380	Report of the Secretary-General of UNCTAD to UNCTAD X
TD/381	Marrakech Declaration, adopted at the Ninth Ministerial Meeting of the Group of 77 and China, held at Marrakech, Morocco from 13 to 16 September 1999
TD/382	UNCTAD and Civil Society: Towards Our Common Goals
TD/383	Final Declaration of the Parliamentary Meeting on the occasion of UNCTAD X
TD/384	Communiqué by the Minsters of Trade of the Least Developed Countries
TD/385	Report of the Credentials Committee
TD/386	Plan of Action
TD/387	Bangkok Declaration: Global Dialogue and Dynamic Engagement
TD/388	Conference Statement - Expression of appreciation to His Majesty the King of Thailand
TD/389	Resolution - Expression of Gratitude to the Government and People of Thailand
TD/L.361	Draft Plan of Action – Pre-conference text for UNTAD X
TD/L.362	Message to the UNCTAD X Conference - Mary Robinson, United Nations High Commissioner
TD/L.363	Address by Mr. Rubens Ricupero, Secretary-General of UNCTAD

TD/L.364	Address by H.E. Mr. Chuan Leekpai, Prime Minister of Thailand
TD/L.365	Address by Mr. Kofi Annan, Secretary-General of the United Nations
TD/L.366	Message by H.E. Daniel Toroitich Arap Moi, President of the Republic of Kenya
TD/L.367	Draft Report of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development on its tenth session held at Bangkok, Thailand, from 12 to 19 February 2000
TD(X)/Misc.1 and Add.1	Checklist of documents
TD(X)/Misc.2	Provisional list of participants
TD(X)/Misc.3	High-level Round Table with Eminent Economists - Trade and development directions for the 21st Century: the Academic perspective Summary – Prepared by the UNCTAD secretariat (not an official record)
TD(X)/Misc.4 and Corr.1	High-level Round Table with Heads of United Nations Agencies, Programmes and Related Institutions Summary – Prepared by the UNCTAD secretariat (not an official record)
TD(X)/Misc.5	Interactive debate: Keynote speaker: Mr. Michael Camdessus Summary – Prepared by the UNCTAD secretariat (not an official record)
TD(X)/Misc.6	Interactive debate: Keynote speaker: Mr. Enrique Iglesias President, Inter-American Development Bank Summary – Prepared by the UNCTAD secretariat (not an official record)
TD(X)/Misc.7 and Rev. 1 - 2	Plenary - Summary Prepared by the UNCTAD secretariat (not an official record)
TD(X)/Misc.8	Round Table with Heads of United Nations Economic Commissions Regional Dimensions of Development Summary – Prepared by the UNCTAD secretariat (not an official record)
TD(X)/Misc.9	Interactive debate: Keynote speaker: Mr. Juan Somavia Summary - Prepared by the UNCTAD secretariat (not an official record)

TD(X)/Misc.10	Interactive debate: Keynote speaker: Mr. Mike Moore Summary - Prepared by the UNCTAD secretariat (not an official record)
TD(X)/Misc.11	Interactive debate: Keynote speaker: Mr. James Wolfensohn, President, World Bank Summary - Prepared by the UNCTAD secretariat (not an official record)
TD(X)/Misc.12	Round Table of the Human Dimension of Development Empowering entrepreneurs for the 21st century Summary - Prepared by the UNCTAD secretariat (not an official record)
TD(X)/Misc.13	Leaders' Forum Summary - Prepared by the UNCTAD secretariat (not an official record)
TD/INF.35	Information for participants
TD/INF.36	Information note: Cooperation Agreement between the United Nations and the Government of the Kingdom of Thailand concerning the International Institute for Trade and Development
TD/INF.37	List of participants, Tenth session, (Bangkok, Thailand) 12 - 19 February 2000
TD(X)/PC/1	Report of the Pre-UNCTAD X Seminar on the Role of Competition Policy for Development in Globalizing World Markets, Geneva, 14 - 15 June 1999
TD(X)/PC/2	Report on the Pre-UNCTAD X Expert Workshop on Trade, Sustainable Development and Gender, Geneva, 12 and 13 July 1999
TD(X)/PC/3	Report of the Pre-UNCTAD X Workshop on Exchange of Experiences among Enterprises in the Areas of Electronic Commerce, Geneva, 17 and 18 June 1999
TD(X)/PC/4	Ninth Ministerial Meeting of the Group of 77 and China Plan of Action - Note by the UNCTAD secretariat
TD(X)/PC/5	Ninth Ministerial Meeting of the Group of 77 and China Draft Bangkok Consensus - Note by the UNCTAD secretariat

TD(X)/PC/6	Guidelines for the Participation of the European Union in the Tenth session of the UNCTAD - Note by the UNCTAD secretariat
TD(X)/PC/7 and Corr.1	Report on the Pre-UNCTAD X Seminar on Making FDI Work for Sustainable Development, Geneva, 15 November 1999 - Overview and Summary report
TD(X)/PC/CRP.1	Plan of Action Composite text reflecting proposed amendments and comments received by 4 November 1999 on part I of the Plan of Action (TD(X)/PC/4)
and Rev.1	President's text - Part I
TD(X)/PC/CRP.2	Plan of Action Composite text reflecting proposed amendments and comments received by 4 November 1999 on part I of the Plan of Action (TD(X)/PC/4)
and Rev.1	President's text - Part II
TD(X)/PC/CRP.3	Plan of Action President's Draft pre-Conference text

Round Table

TD(X)/RT.1/1	High-level Round Table on Trade and Development: Directions for the Twenty-first Century - Income Distribution and Development
TD(X)/RT.1/2	High-level Round Table on Trade and Development: Directions for the Twenty-first Century - Trade Theory and Policy
TD(X)/RT.1/3	High-level Round Table on Trade and Development: Directions for the Twenty-first Century - Prospects of economies in transition
TD(X)/RT.1/4	High-level Round Table on Trade and Development: Directions for the Twenty-first Century - Globalization and Development Strategies
TD(X)/RT.1/5	High-level Round Table on Trade and Development: Directions for the Twenty-first Century - Economic governance institutions in a global political economy: Implications for developing countries

TD(X)/RT.1/6	High-level Round Table on Trade and Development: Directions for the Twenty-first Century - Economic Dependence on Commodities
TD(X)/RT.1/7	High-level Round Table on Trade and Development: Directions for the Twenty-first Century - Industrialization under new WTO Law
TD(X)/RT.1/8	High-level Round Table on Trade and Development: Directions for the Twenty-first Century - Agricultural trade barriers and their impact on developing countries
TD(X)/RT.1/9	High-level Round Table on Trade and Development: Directions for the Twenty-first Century - Diffusion of technological progress
TD(X)/RT.1/10	High-level Round Table on Trade and Development: Directions for the Twenty-first Century - Regional cooperation in a changing global environment: Success and failure in East Asia
TD(X)/RT.1/11	High-level Round Table on Trade and Development: Directions for the Twenty-first Century - Financing for Development: Current trends and Issues for the future
TD(X)/RT.1/12	High-level Round Table on Trade and Development: Directions for the Twenty-first Century - Note by the UNCTAD secretariat

AF/MM/77(IX)/1 and Corr.1	African Ministerial Declaration on UNCTAD X
AS/MM/77(IX)/3	Substantive Outcome (Beirut Consensus)
LA/MM/77(IX)/1	Santo Domingo Declaration
TD/B/46/15(Vol.1)	Report of the Trade and Development Board at its forty-sixth session
UNCTAD/ISS/Misc.273	Compendium of outcomes of UNCTAD intergovernmental meetings since Midrand 1996-1999
UNCTAD/ISS/Misc.276	Compendium of General Assembly resolutions approved by the Second Committee that make direct or indirect reference to UNCTAD since UNCTAD IX

TD/B/IGO/List/2 and Add.1-3	List of intergovernmental organizations participating in the activities of UNCTAD
TD/B/NGO/List/3 and Add.1-2	List of non-governmental organizations participating in the activities of UNCTAD